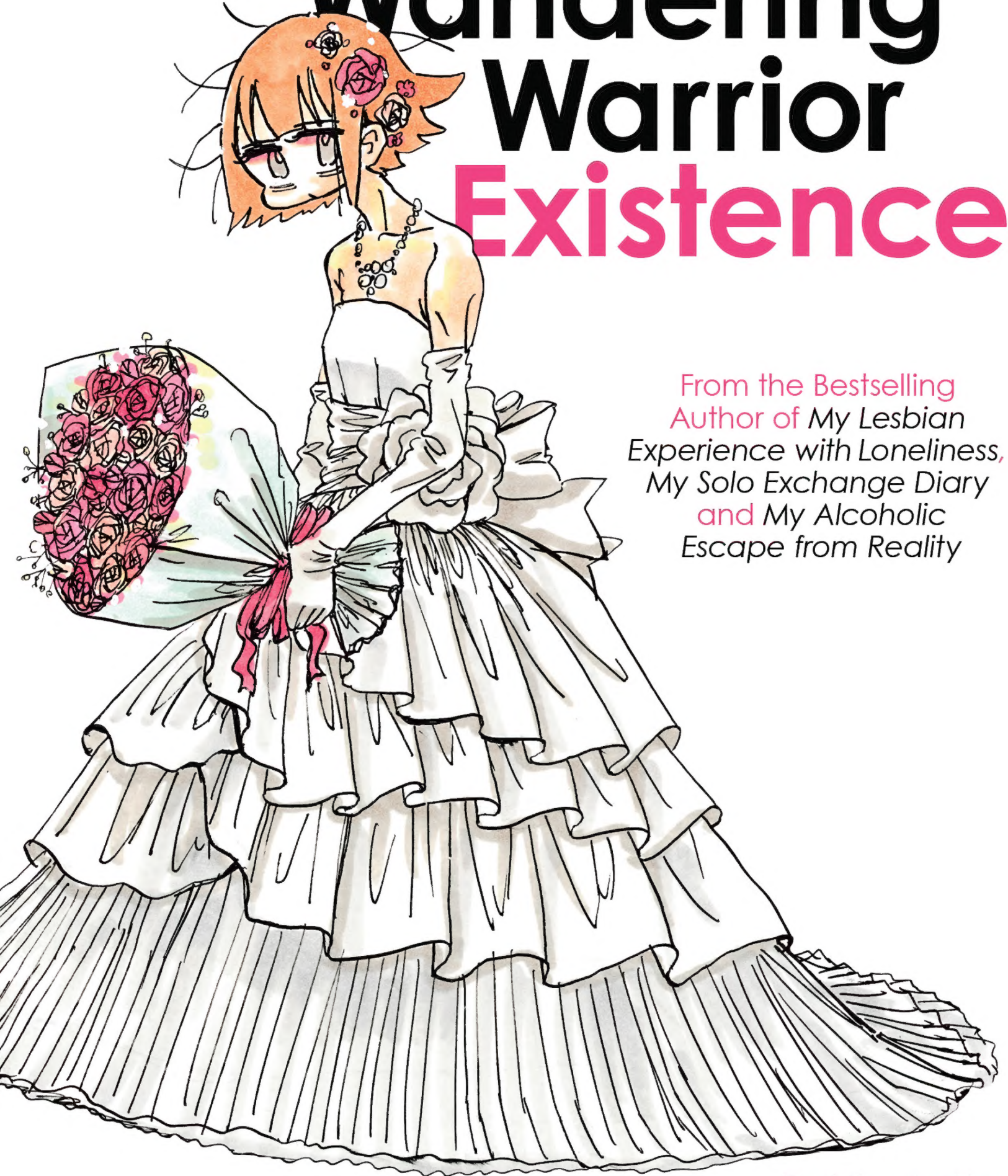
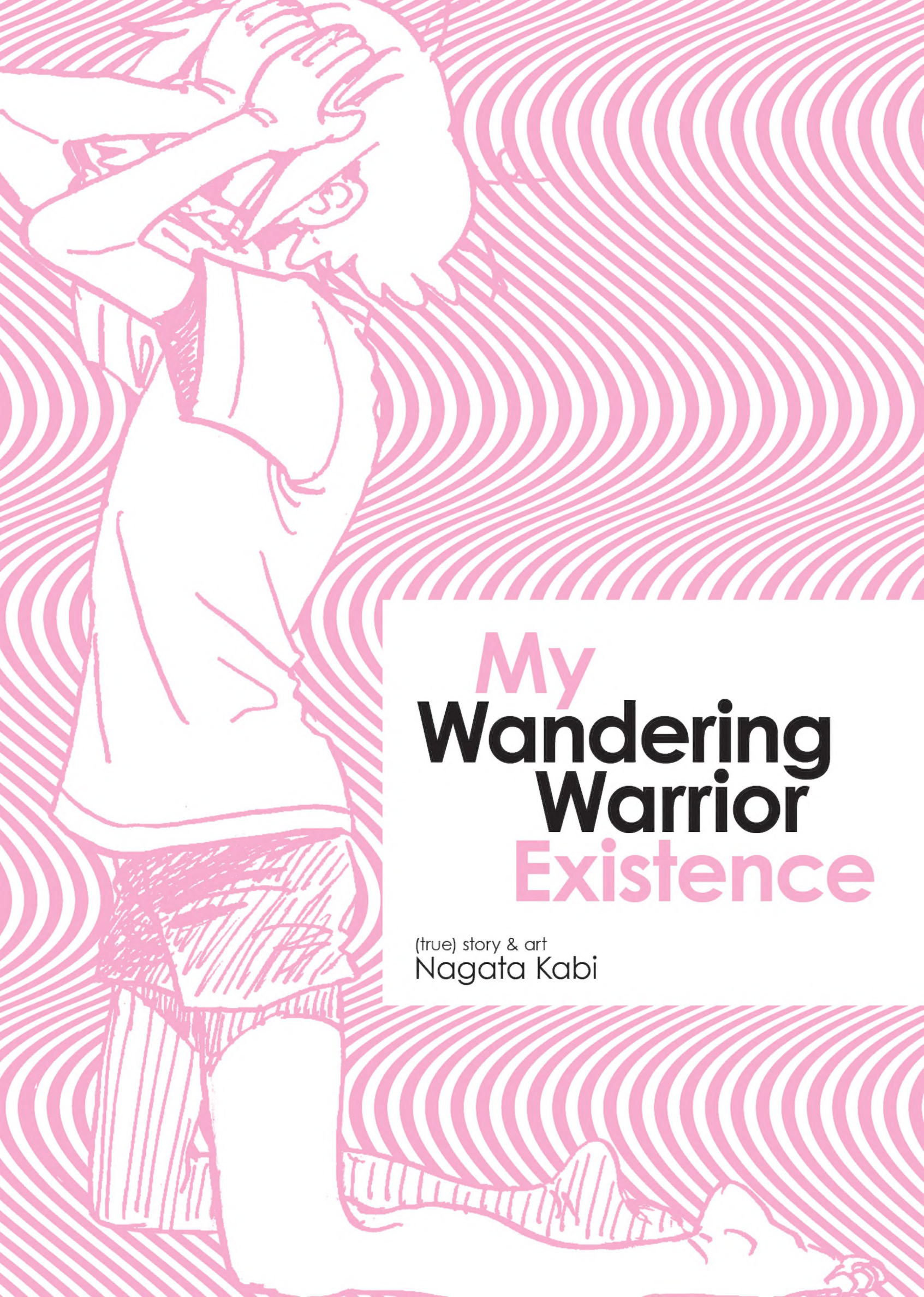


My Wandering Warrior Existence



From the Bestselling
Author of *My Lesbian
Experience with Loneliness,
My Solo Exchange Diary
and My Alcoholic
Escape from Reality*

(True) Story & Art by
Nagata Kabi



My Wandering Warrior Existence

(true) story & art
Nagata Kabi

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My
name is
Nagata
Kabi.

BOW



Hello,
everyone.

Chapter 1: Wedding for One

so
here's a brief
introduction.



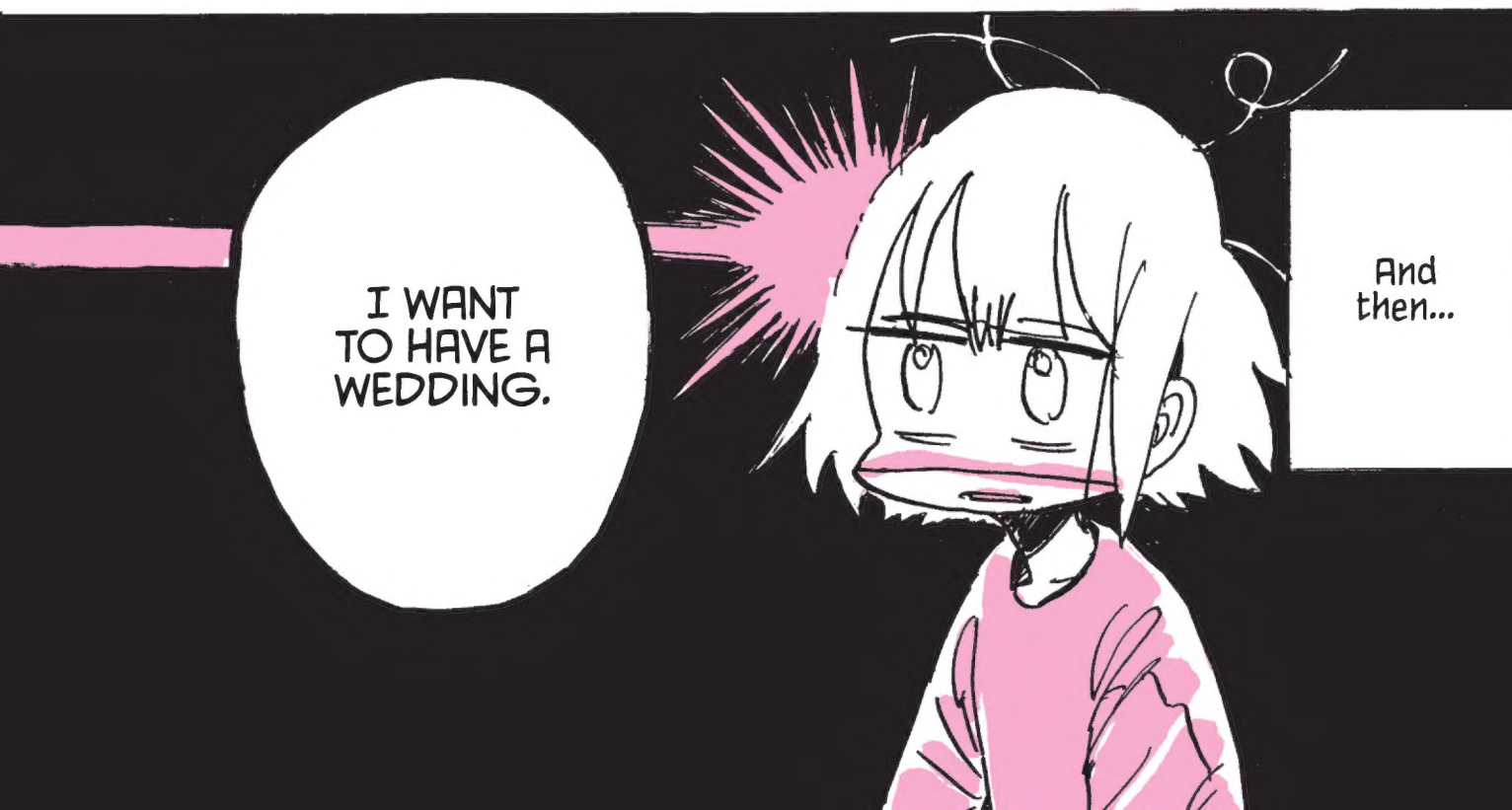
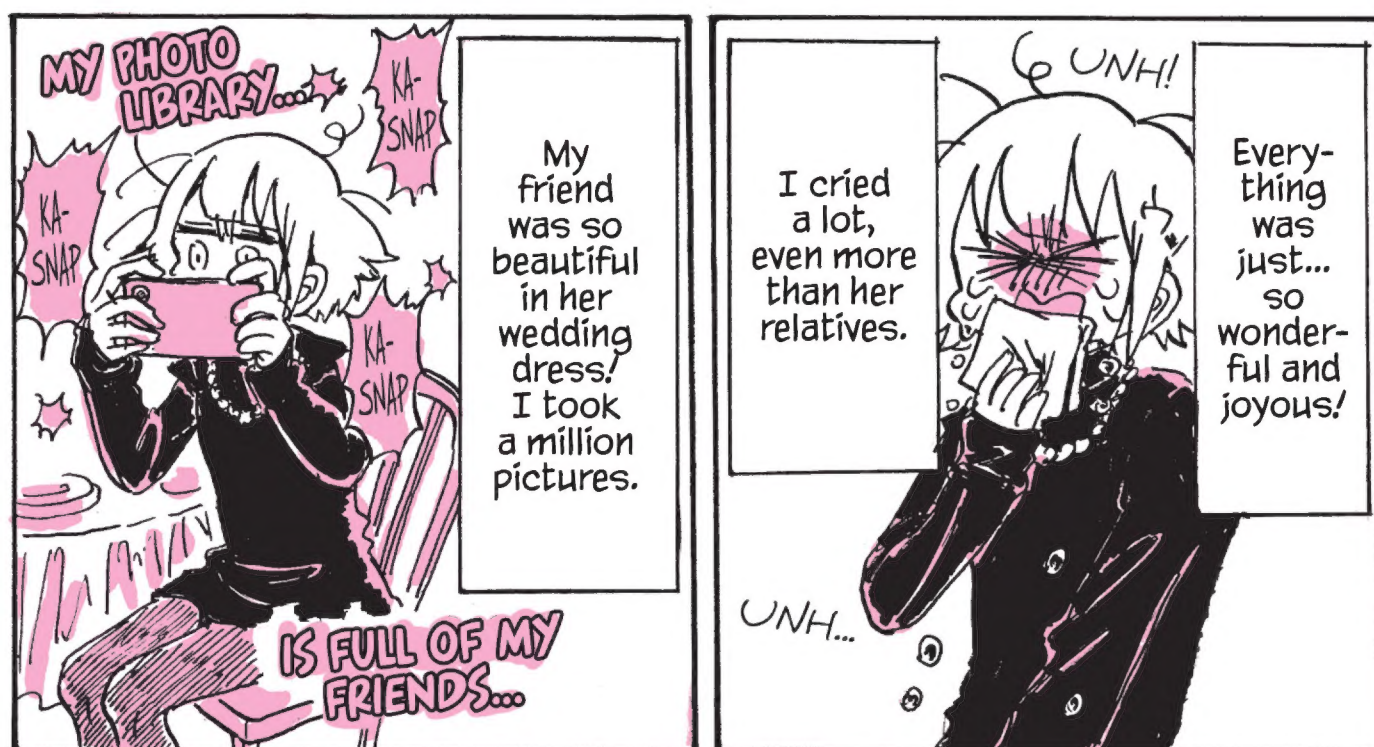
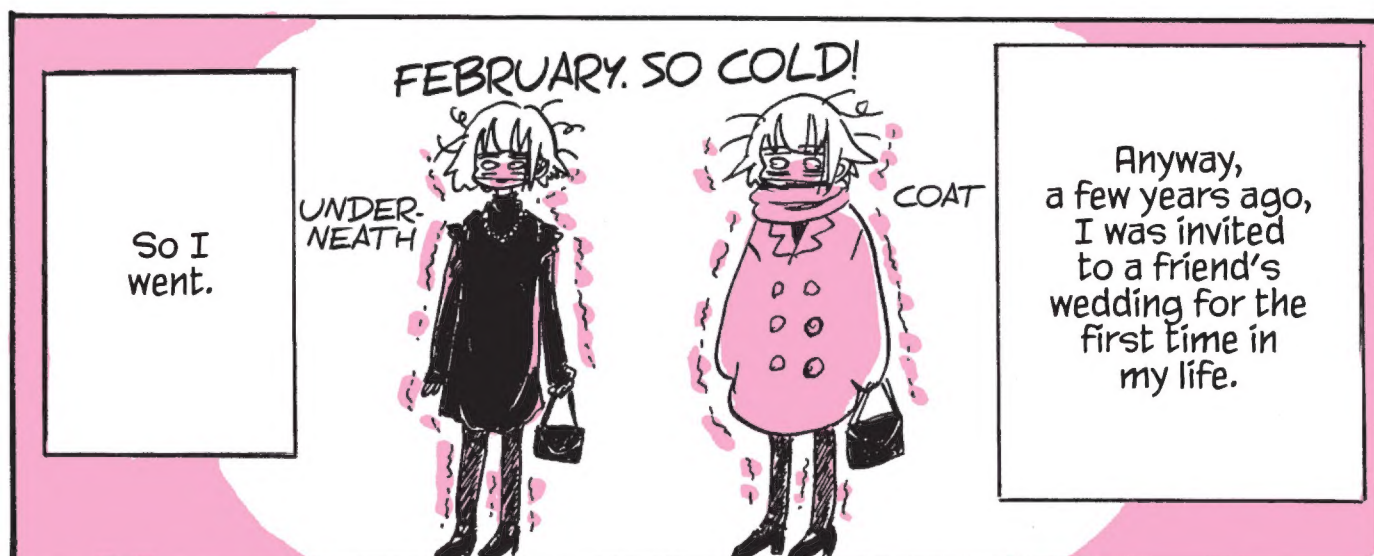
I believe
some
of you are
meeting
me for the
first time
(I hope so,
at least)...

and most
recently told
the story of
how I got
alcohol-induced
acute
pancreatitis.

ALREADY PUBLISHED



Somehow,
I've found
myself mostly
drawing
autobiographical
manga.
I started
with my visit
to a lesbian
escort
agency...





(※Not only was I not seeing anyone at the time, I'd never gone out with anyone.)

BY MYSELF IS FINE. I JUST WANT TO DO IT.

That was my overwhelming desire.



And since my mother wanted to see me in a wedding dress (even though there was no hint of a wedding on the horizon)...



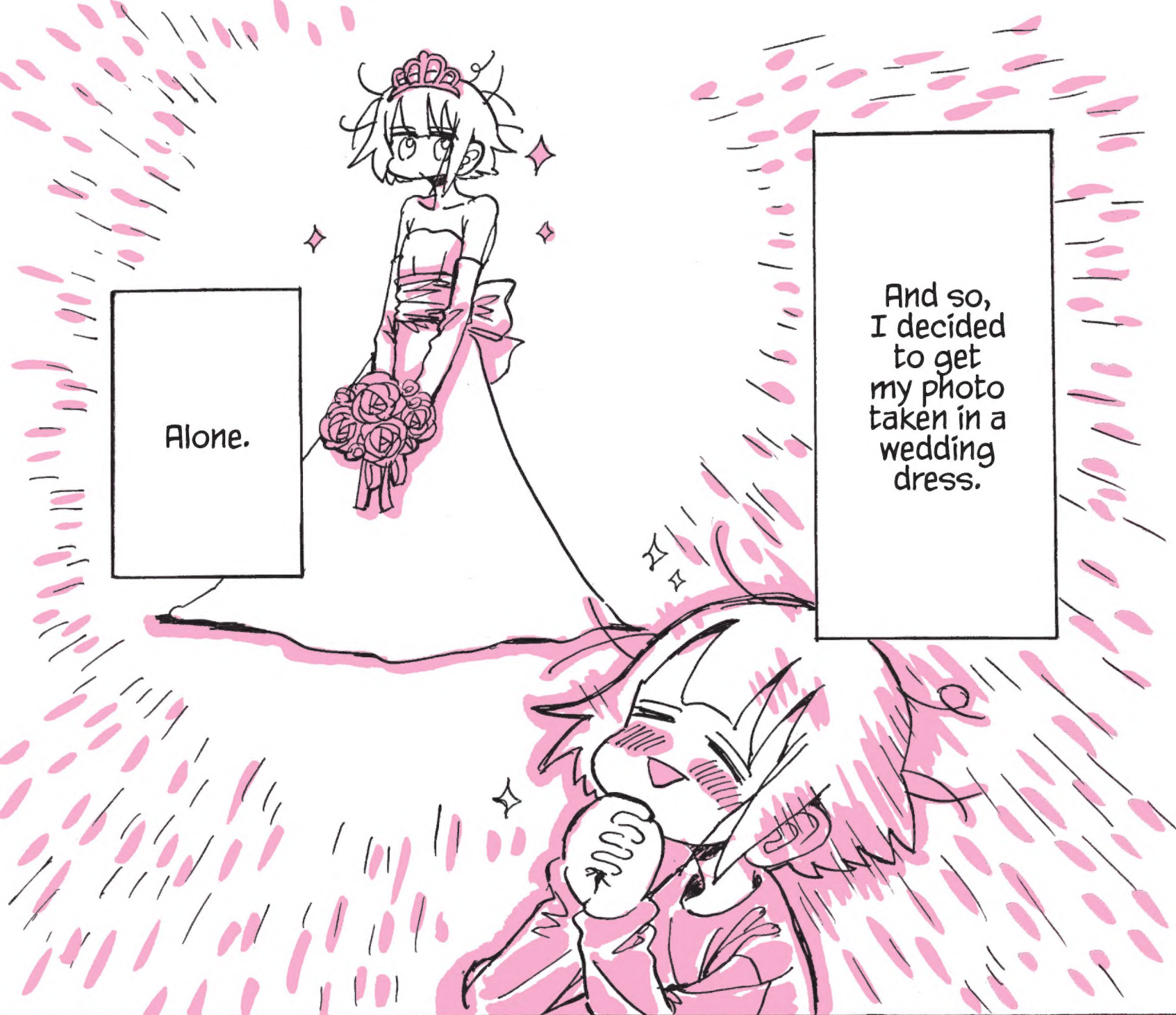
I had a soul-deep longing to wear a wedding dress and smile like that, too.



(Apparently, there are lots of places like that.)

HMM...

I looked for a place where you could get your picture taken wearing one.



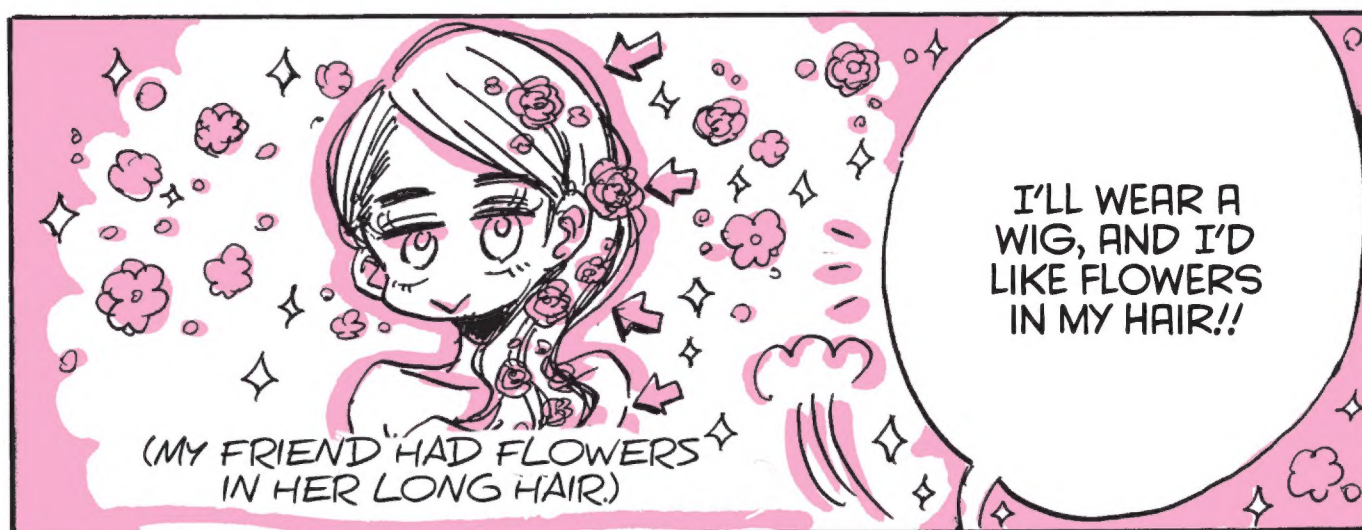
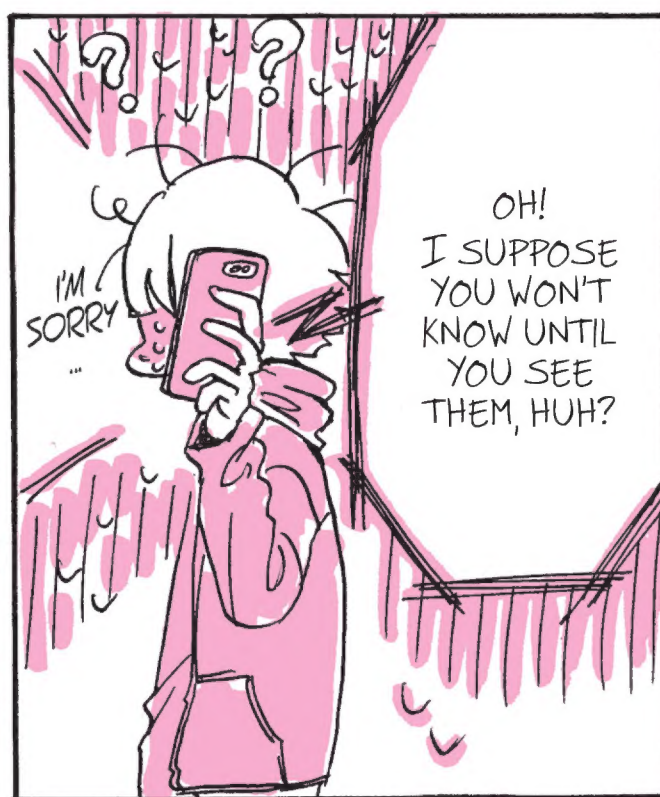
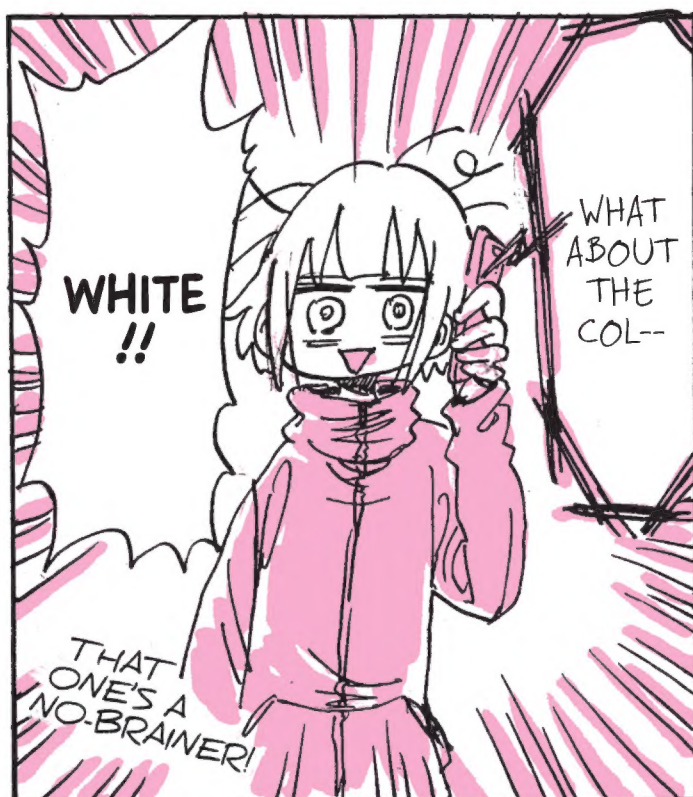
Alone.

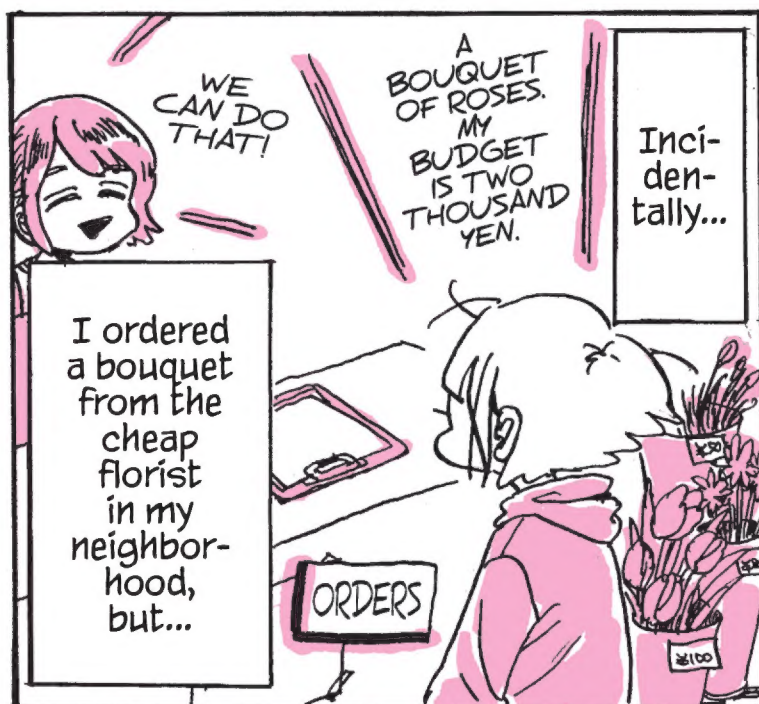
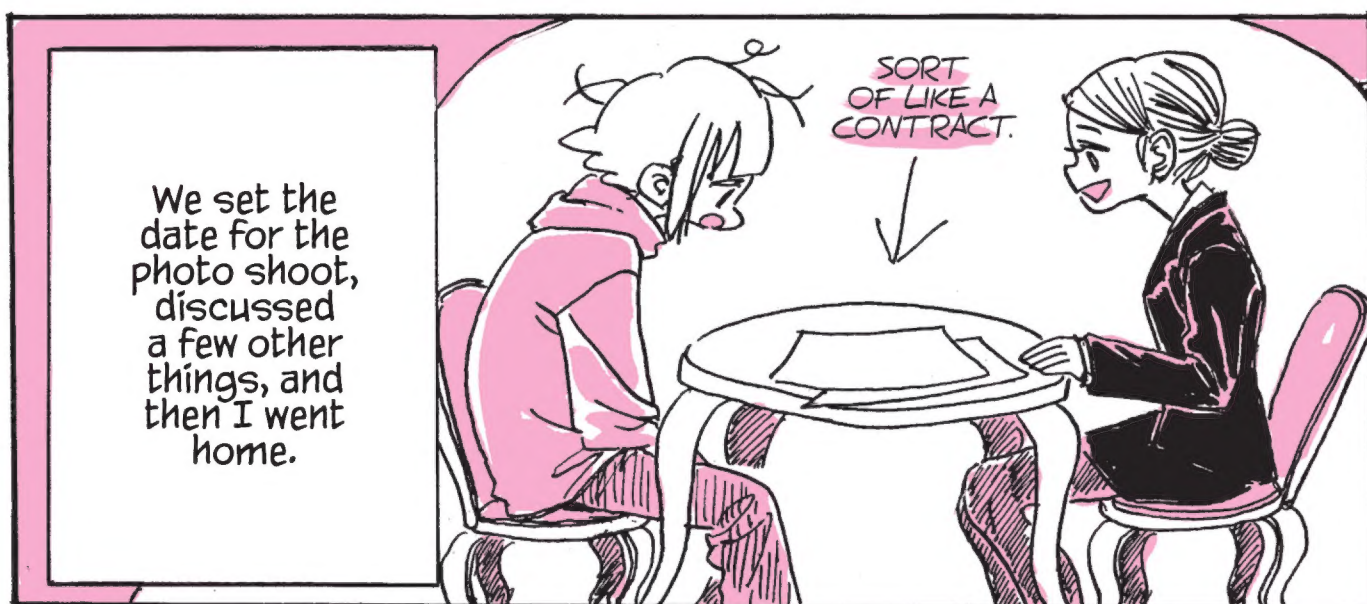
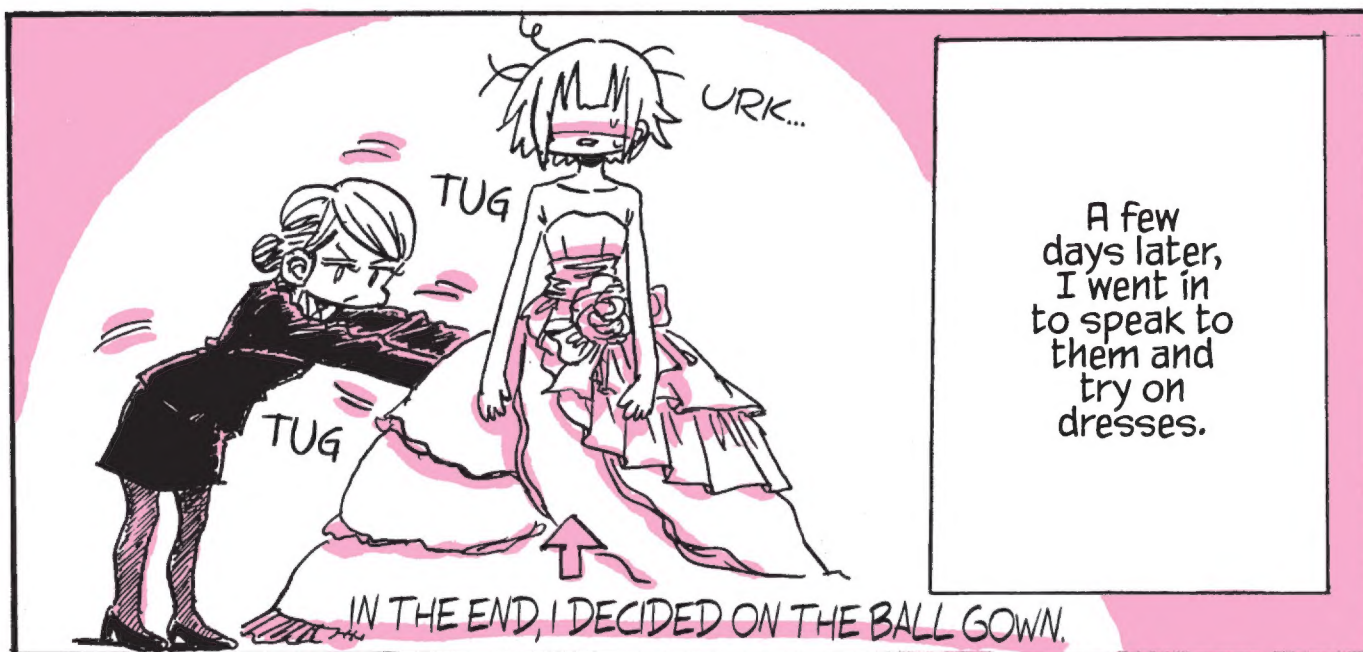
And so,
I decided
to get
my photo
taken in a
wedding
dress.



and they
called
later to
confirm.

I made the
reservation
online...





DUN
SO! MANY!

the florist
ended up being
too inexpensive.
The number of roses
they put in the
bouquet would have
been weird for any
occasion.

IS
THIS ALL
RIGHT?!

THE
BIG DAY.

FLOWERS!!

picked
up the
absurd
bouquet,
and headed
for the
studio,
where I'd
get my
makeup
done.

I
put a
wig
on at
home...



READY!!

(※The studio had a photographer, but you could take your own pictures, too.)



My mother left my grandmother with my father (the usual day service was off), and came running to the studio, camera in hand--through the rain! She was very serious.

THE CORSET'S SO TIGHT...

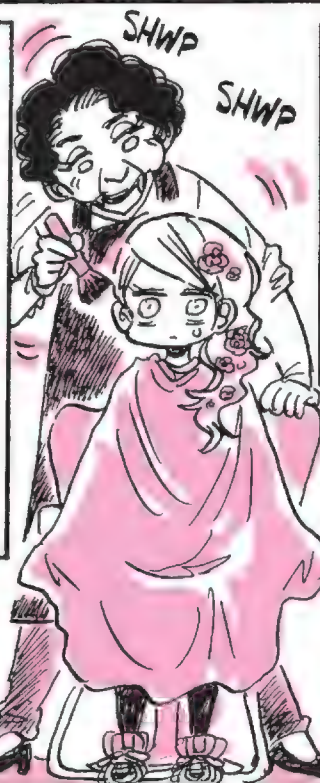
UNH...

After that, I changed into the dress.

And then, at last...



and put flowers in my hair (wig).



First, they did my make-up...

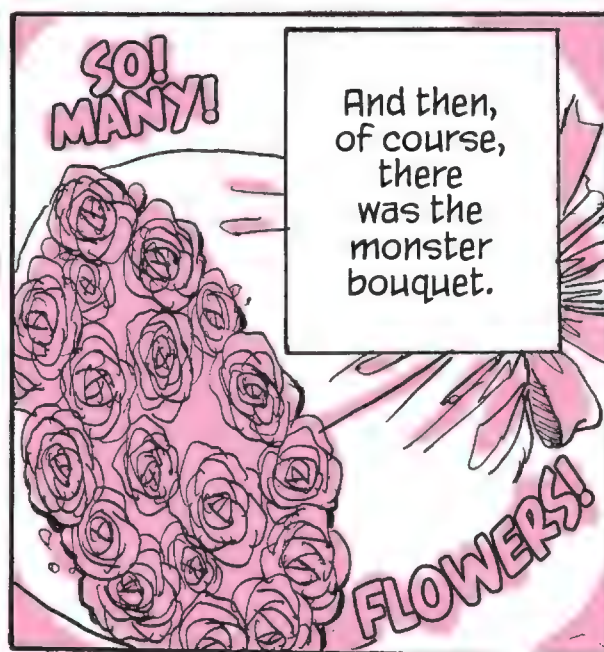
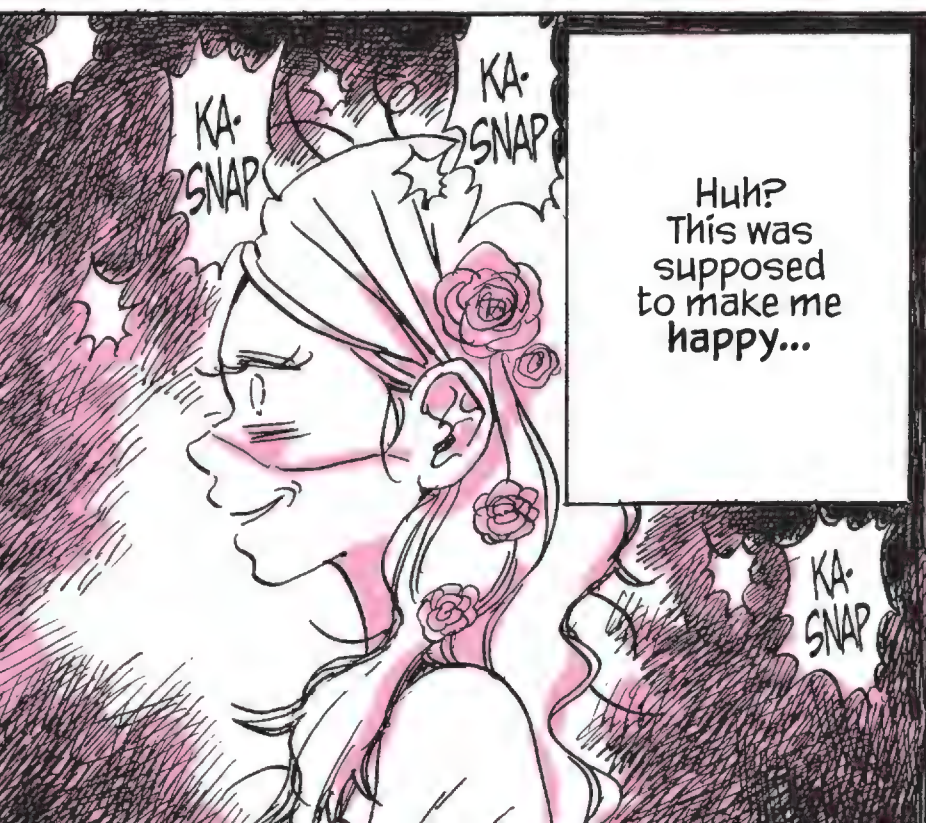
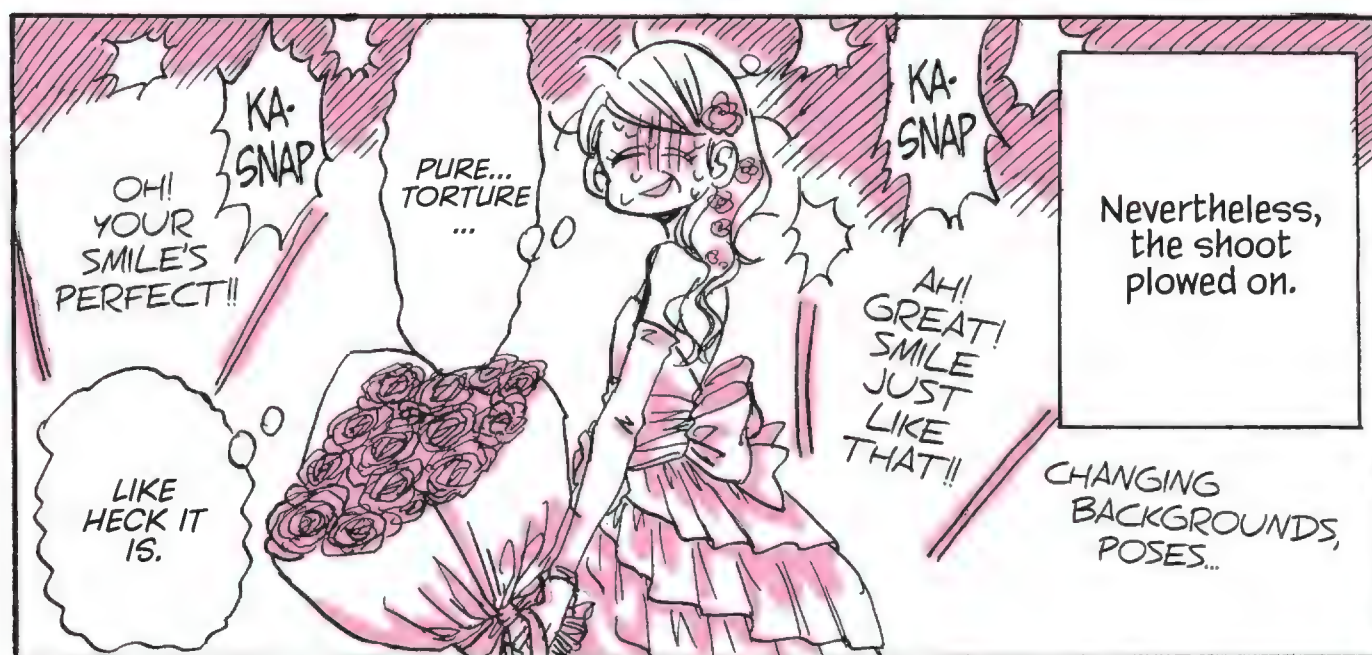
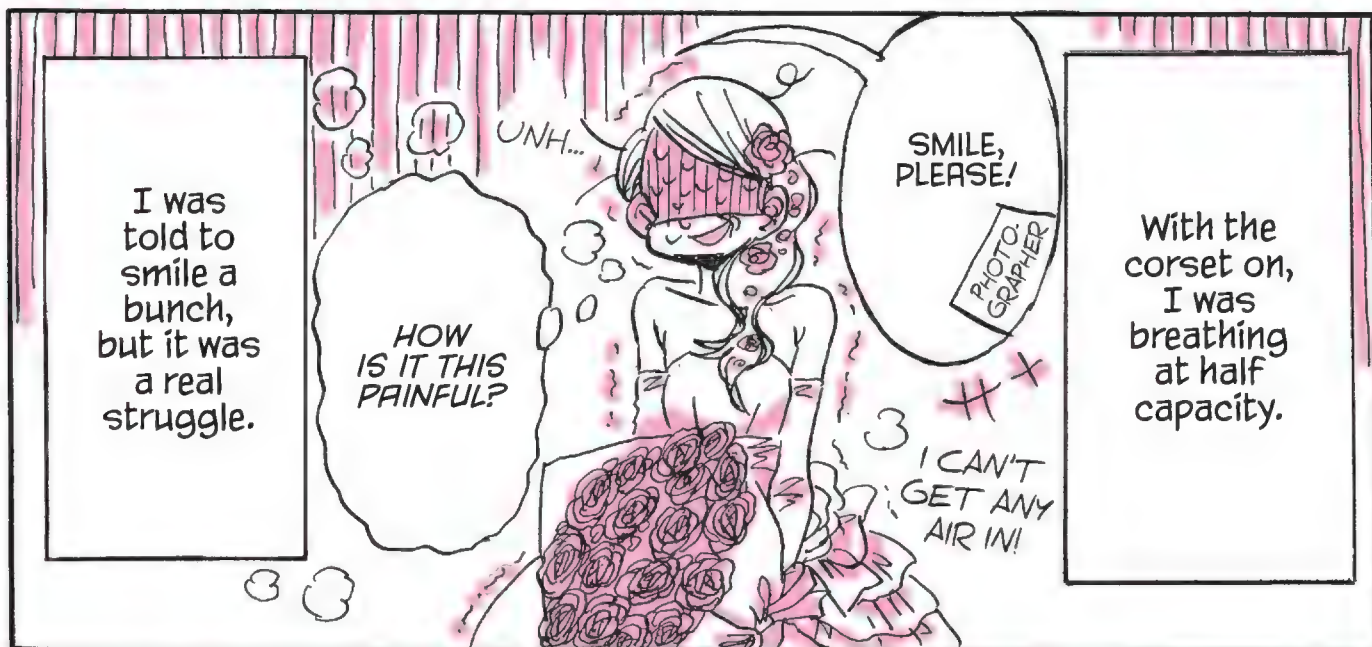
a wedding
for one
(wedding
dress photo
shoot)!!!!

PHOTO-
GRAPHER

MOM

OKAY,
BIG
SMILE!





DARK

The studio was strangely dark.

The studio's makeup job and the bouquet I bought were both just so... weird.

.....
SUPER HUGE!

SUPER THICK MAKEUP (MOSTLY ON MY CHEEKS).

KA-SNAP

Meanwhile, my mom was extremely into it. (Which was great.)

KA-SNAP

KA-SNAP

KA-SNAP

KA-SNAP

As the shoot progressed, I got more and more sad.

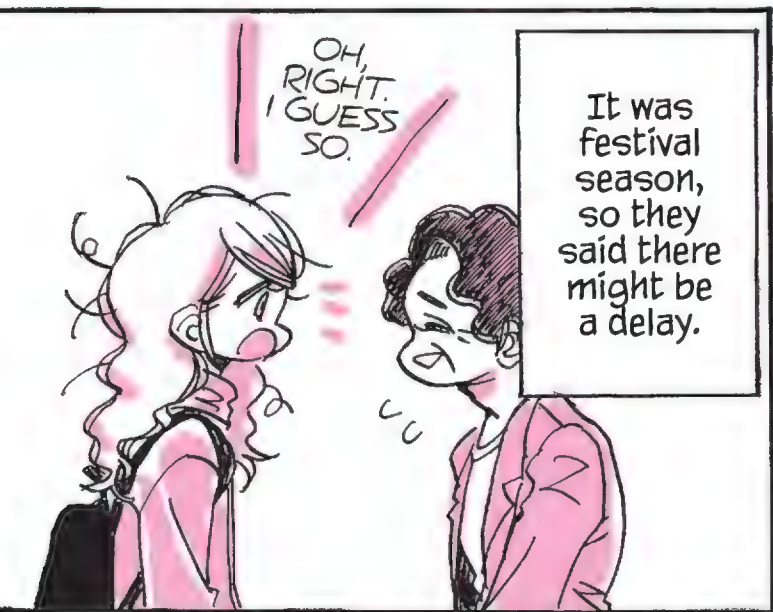
BIG SMILE!!

.....



There were too many things I was not okay with, making me belatedly sad, but the shoot finished without incident.

GREAT JOB!!



OH, RIGHT. I GUESS SO.

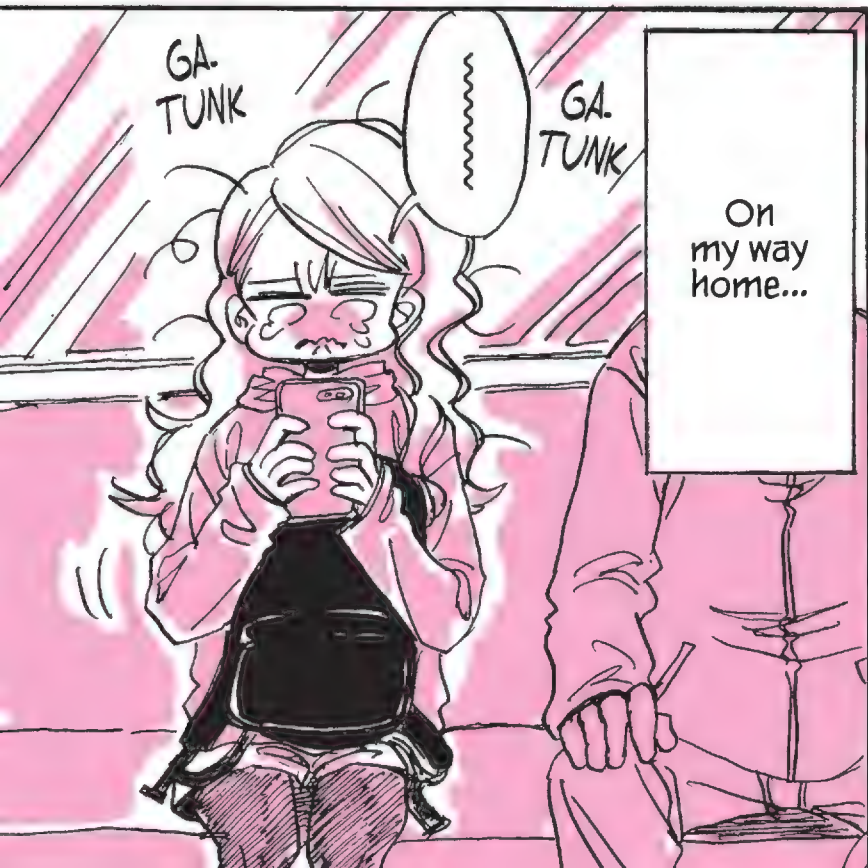
It was festival season, so they said there might be a delay.



The studio would select the final photos and send them to me in an album.

SO

MANY



GA-TUNK

GA-TUNK

On my way home...

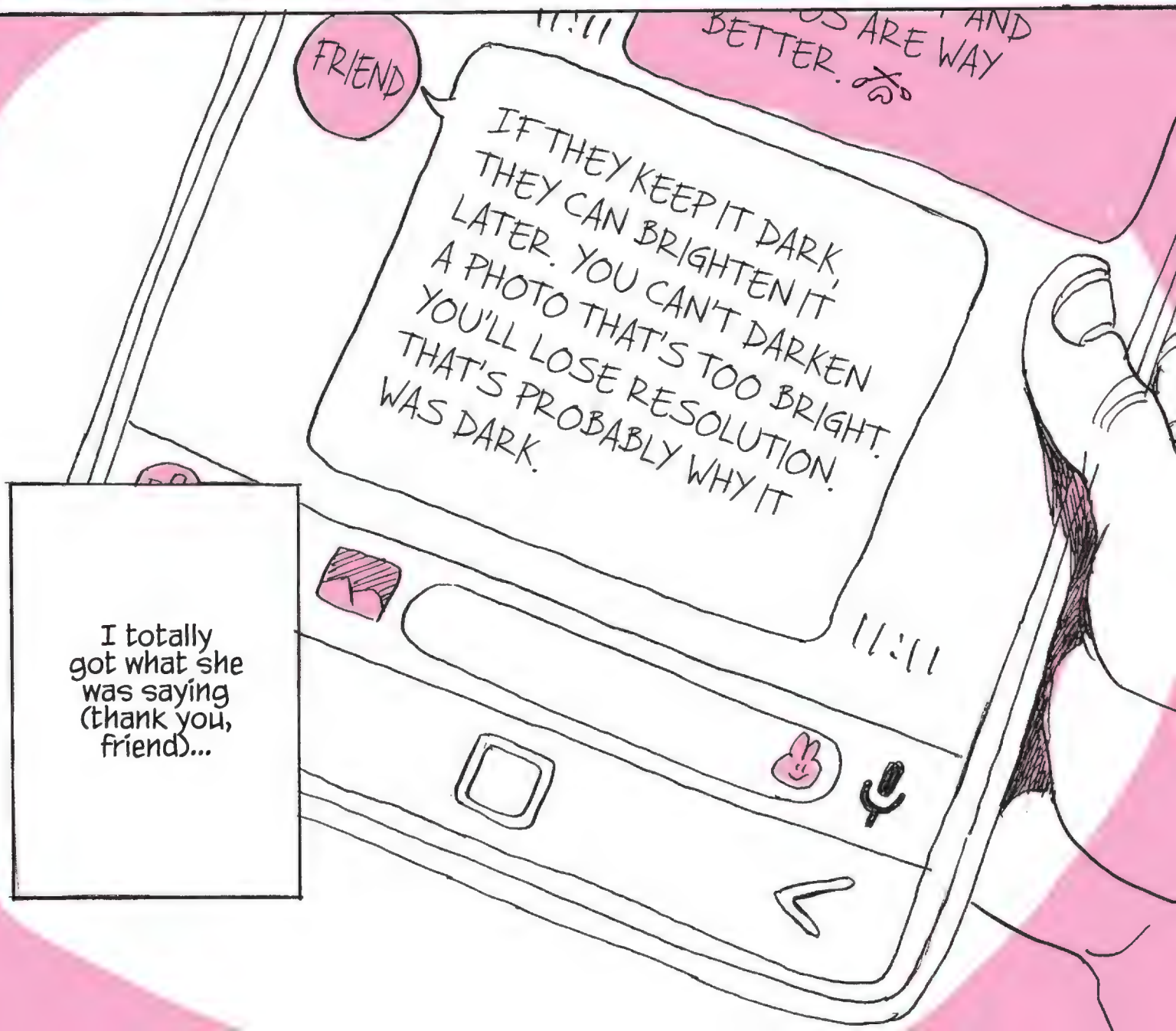
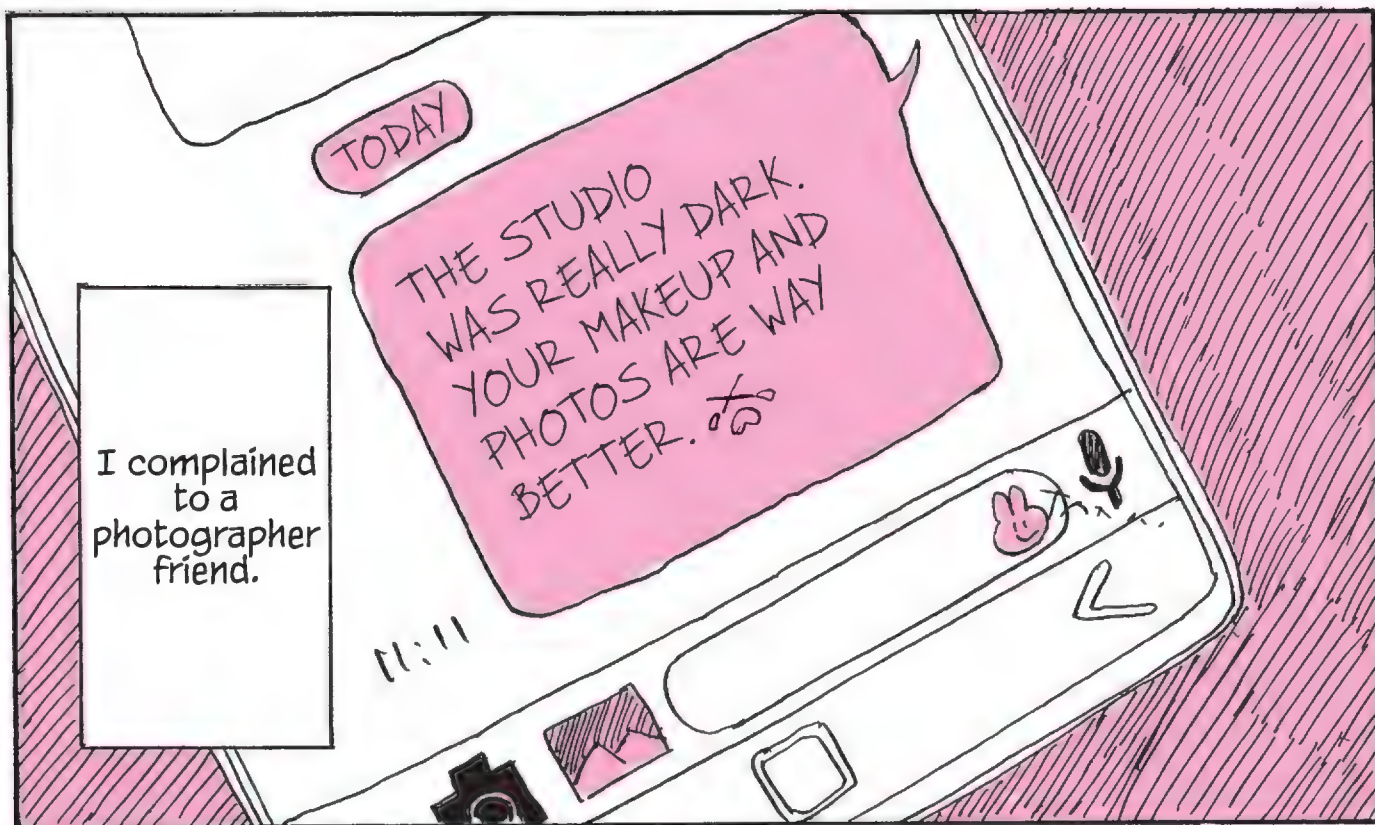


RUB RUB RUB RUB

I removed the makeup on my way home.

MAKEUP WIPES

SO GLAD I BROUGHT THESE



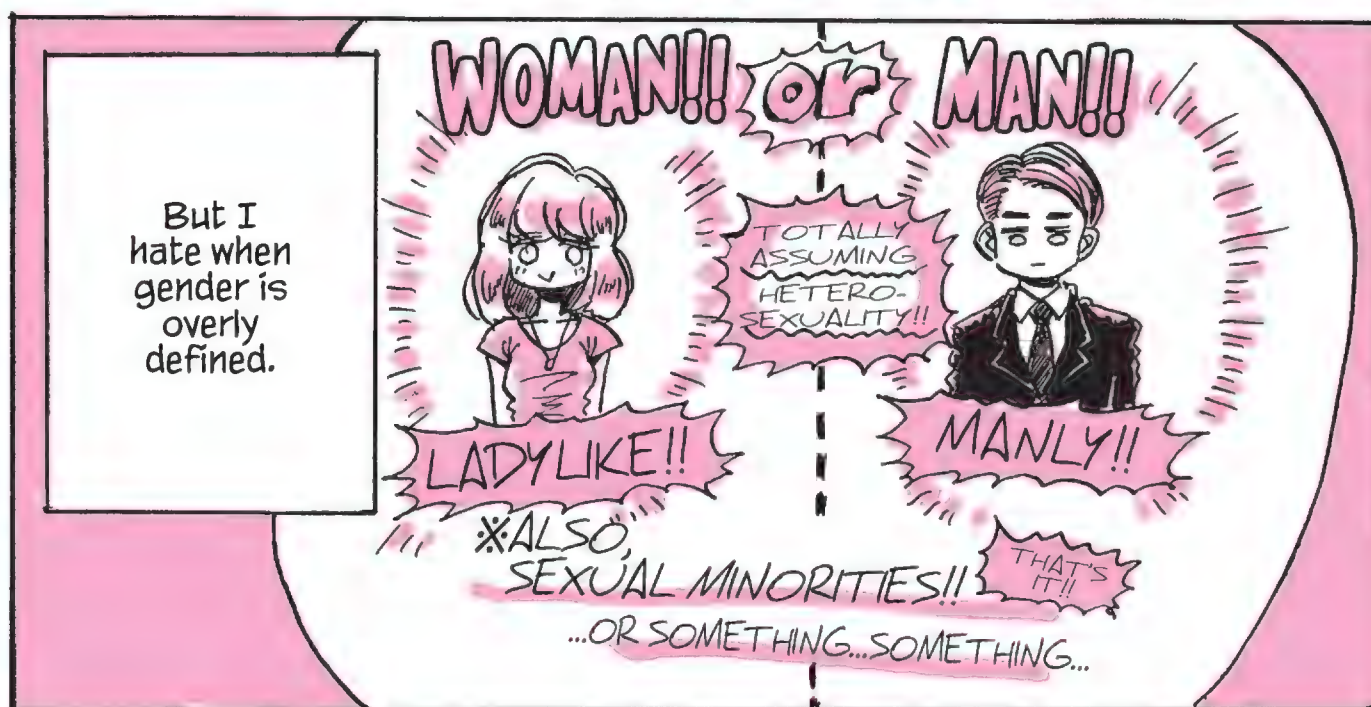


but for
some
reason,
I still
felt
sad.



IT'S
RAINING.

I wore the
wedding
dress
because
that
was my
dream.



But I
hate when
gender is
overly
defined.

WOMAN!! or MAN!!

LADYLIKE!!

MANLY!!

TOTALLY
ASSUMING
HETEROSEXUALITY!!

※ALSO,
SEXUAL MINORITIES!!

THAT'S
IT!!

...OR SOMETHING...SOMETHING...

(~~*/~~ IN MY MIND...)

A WOMAN...

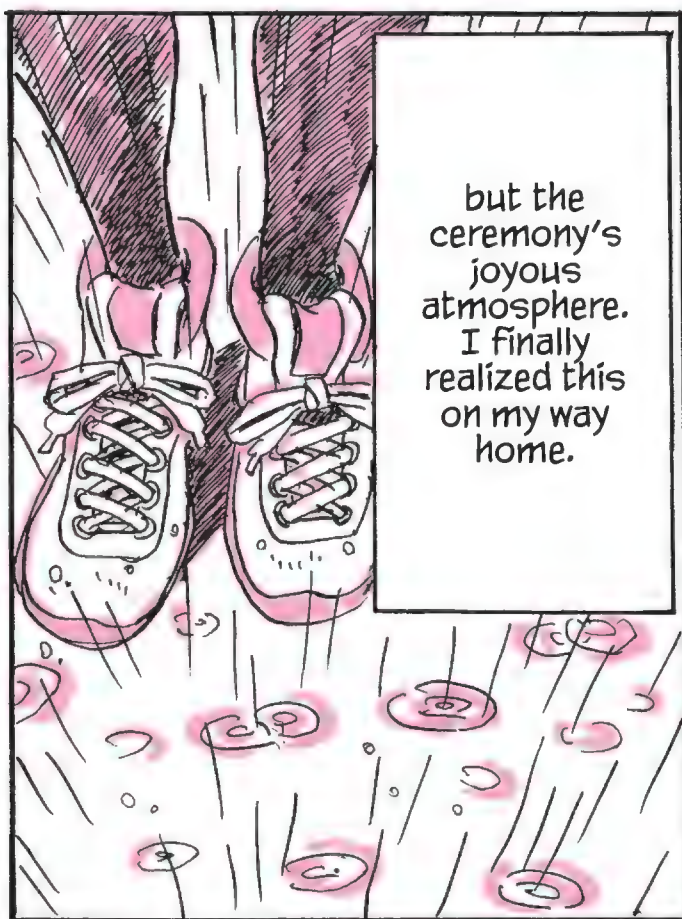
WEARS A WEDDING DRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF HETEROSEXUAL LOVE. THAT'S THE STEREOTYPICAL IMAGE, AT LEAST.



I wore a wedding dress. Even though wedding dresses are super gendered! (That's how I think of them, anyway.)



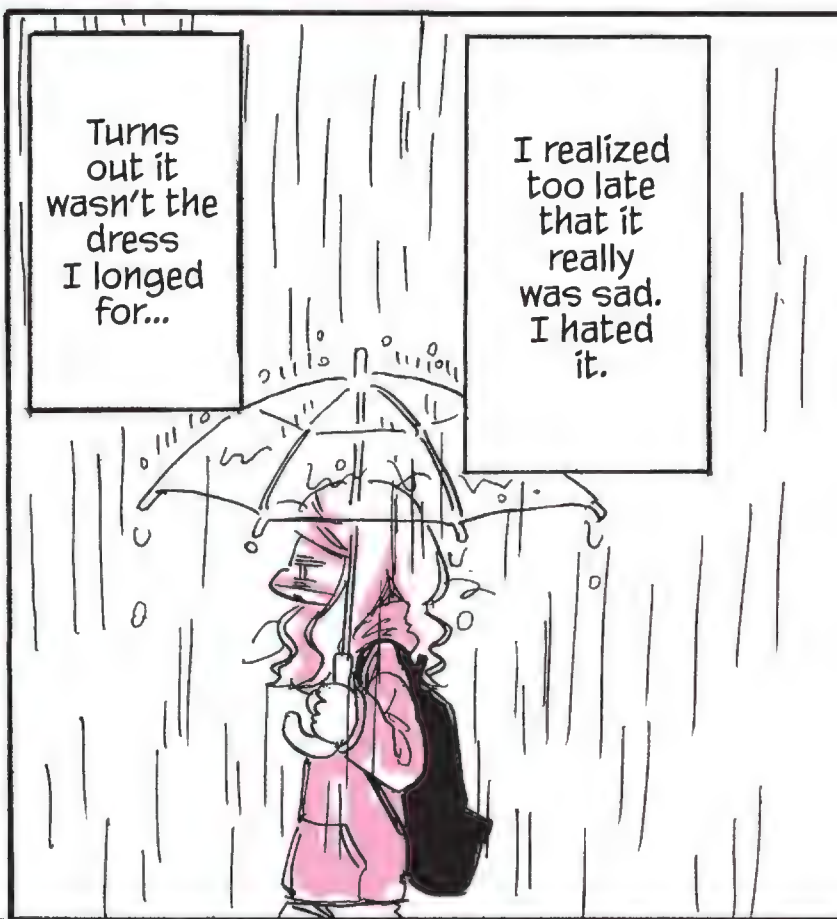
And yet...



but the ceremony's joyous atmosphere. I finally realized this on my way home.

Turns out it wasn't the dress I longed for...

I realized too late that it really was sad. I hated it.



By then, of course, it was too late. I walked along, pelted by rain falling like my emotions made manifest.



You can wear a tuxedo whatever your gender.



You can wear a wedding dress whatever your gender.



You could do that if you wanted to, probably.



Both partners in wedding dresses or tuxedos is also good.



AND OTHER VARIATIONS...



I'd been
overly
defining
gender.



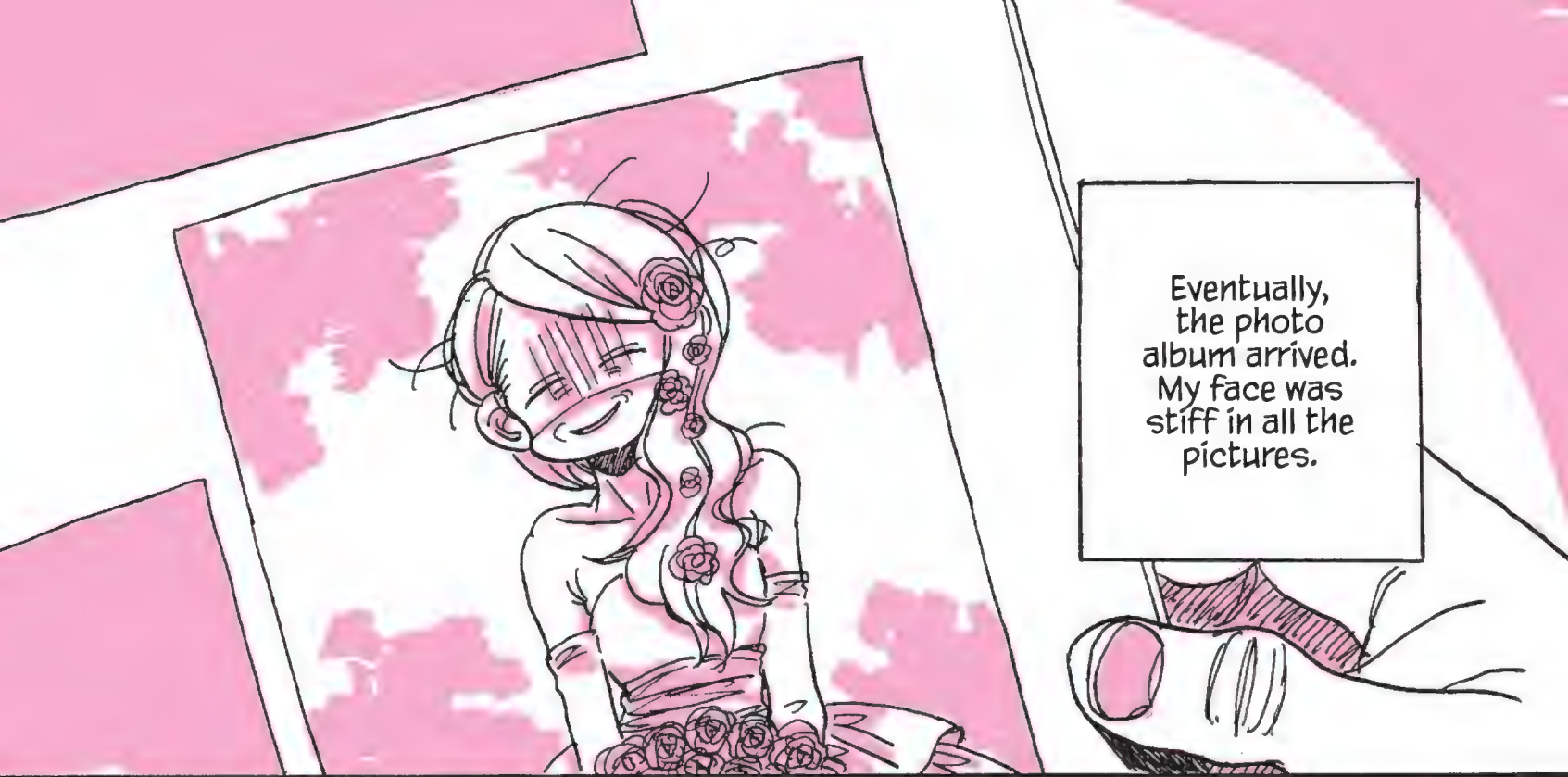
I was
supposed
to be freer
than this!



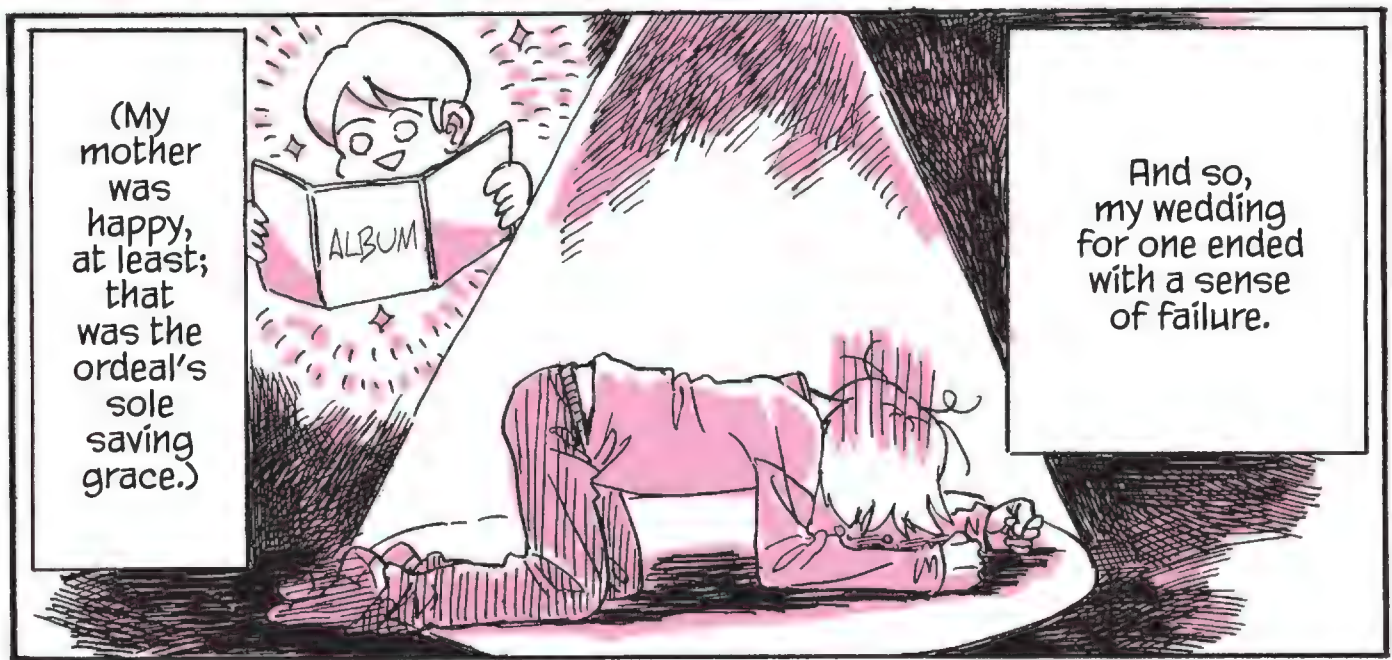
I thought
I was fighting
gender norms
by doing things
like wearing men's
underwear.

THEY'RE MORE
COMFORTABLE
(MENTALLY AND
PHYSICALLY).

FOR THE LAST
FEW YEARS,
I'VE MAINLY BEEN
WEARING BOXERS.



Eventually,
the photo
album arrived.
My face was
stiff in all the
pictures.



(My
mother
was
happy,
at least;
that
was the
ordeal's
sole
saving
grace.)

And so,
my wedding
for one ended
with a sense
of failure.



YOU CAN'T
OBTAIN
HAPPINESS
WITH A
WEDDING
ON YOUR
OWN?!!

IS
THAT
IT?!!



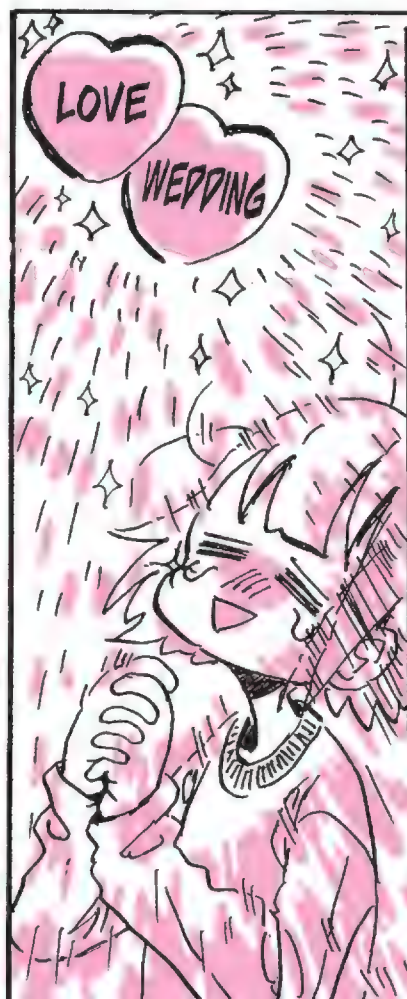
mental
health
issues,
and zero
dating
experience...

A thirtyish
manga artist
with limited
sexual
experience
(with lesbian
escorts
only)...

READ MORE IN
MY LESBIAN
EXPERIENCE WITH
LONELINESS
AND MY SOLO
EXCHANGE
DIARY!!!!

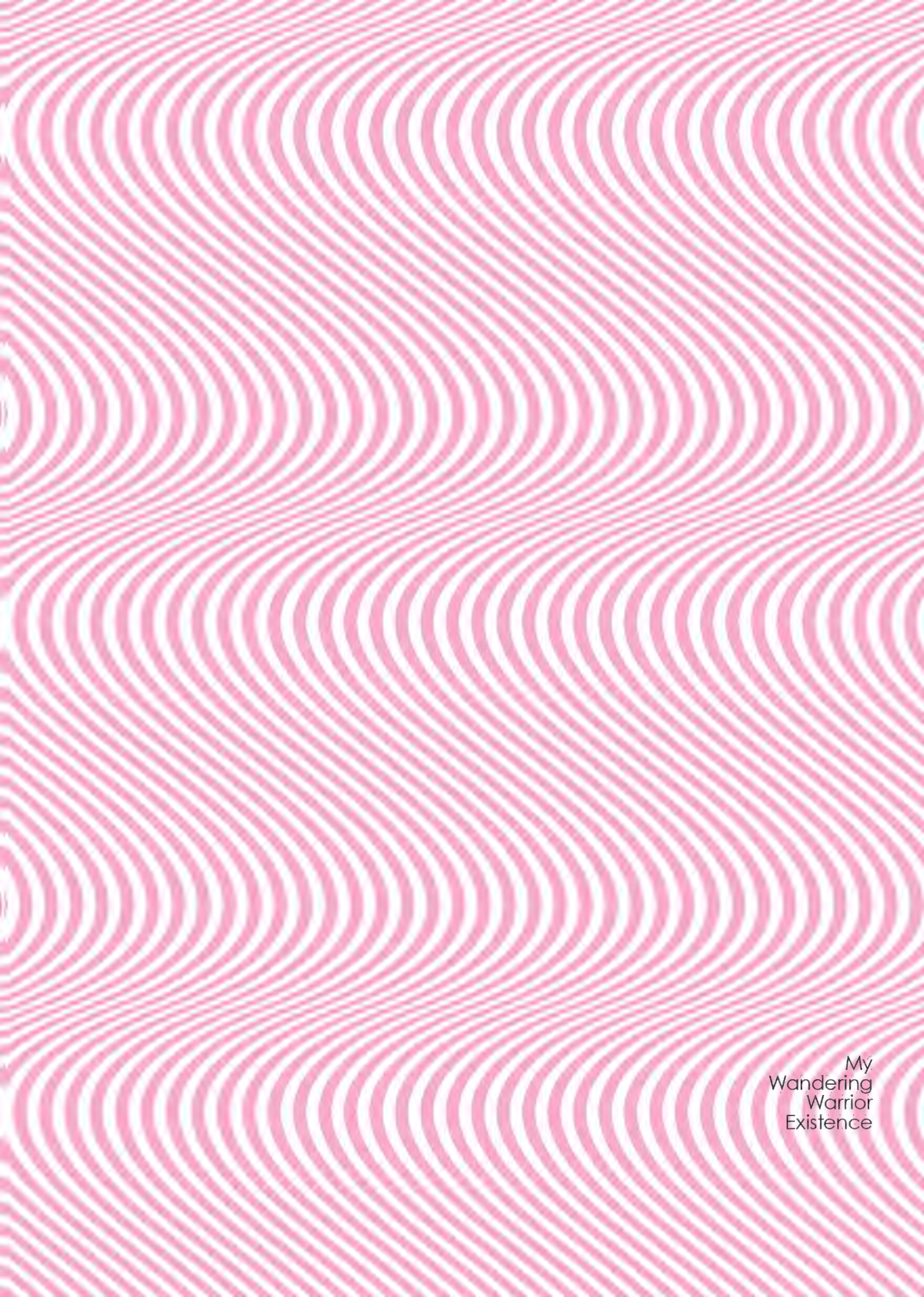


I tried a
dating app
and updated
my profile
obsessively
until I got
scared of
people and
quit.



is
possessed
for a time
by the
longing for
a wedding
and to love
and be
loved.



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of thin, wavy, pink lines on a white background. The lines are arranged in a series of parallel, undulating waves that create a sense of movement and depth. The pattern is consistent across the entire surface.

My
Wandering
Warrior
Existence



I was in
a shop,
reading a
book...

✖
I BOUGHT
THE
BOOK
LATER.

I was
in my
twenties,
working
part-time
(or not at all),
and had no
money.



the first
time I ever
heard about
love between
partners.

was called
*Sayonara
mo Iwazu
ni.**



That book,
an essay
manga
by Ueno
Kentaro...

It's extremely detailed at times, but objectively drawn.



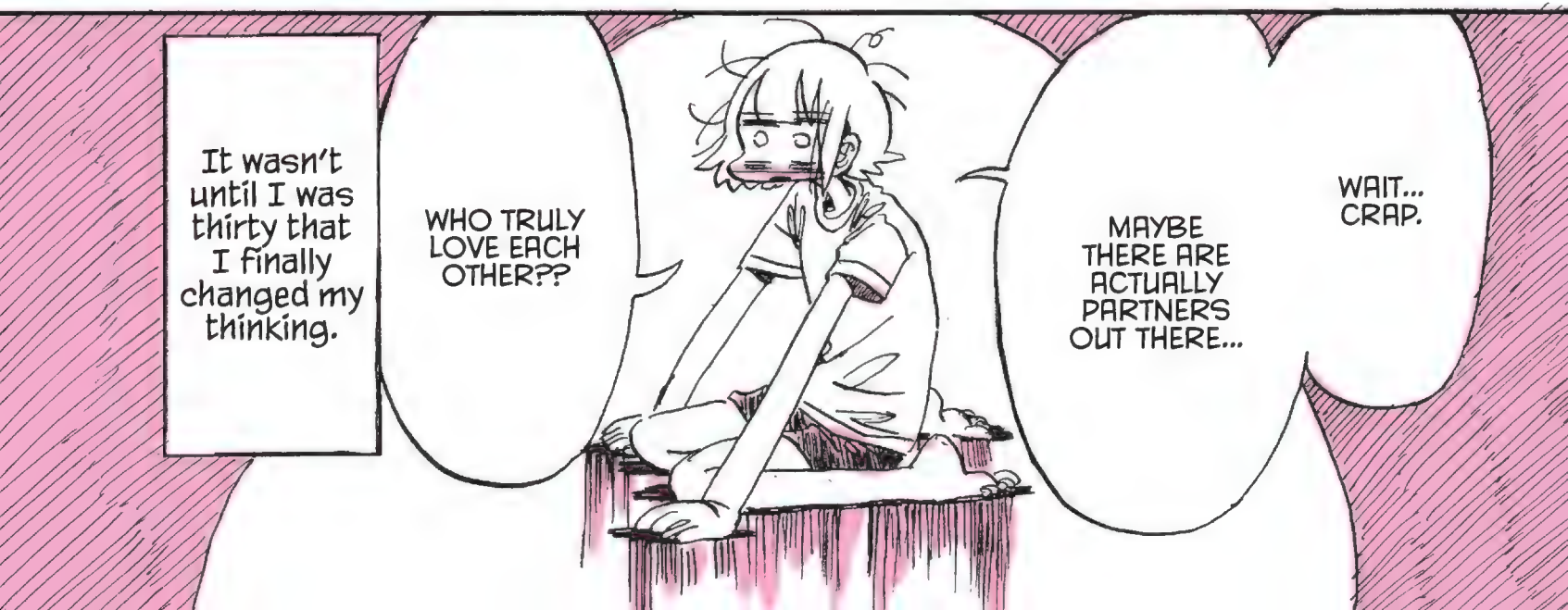
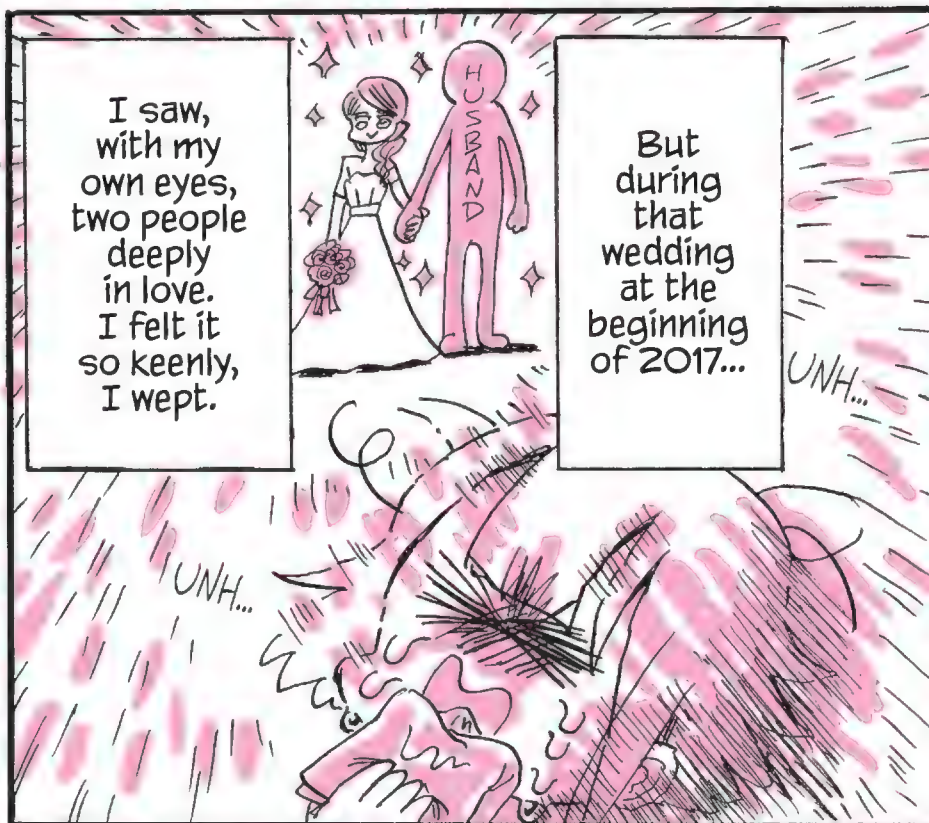
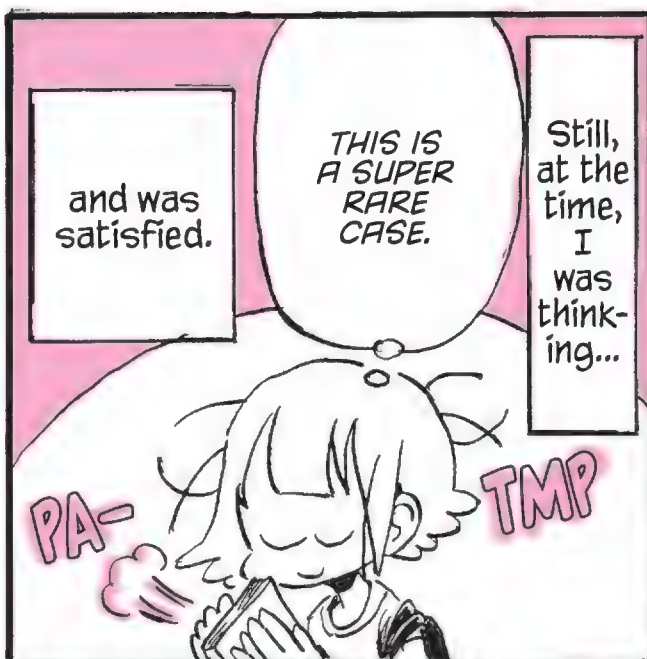
It's about how the artist Ueno Kentaro suddenly lost his partner.

More than the deep sadness or the feelings of an unfillable hole, at the time...

this is what surprised me.

YOU CAN LIKE A PERSON THIS MUCH?!!!

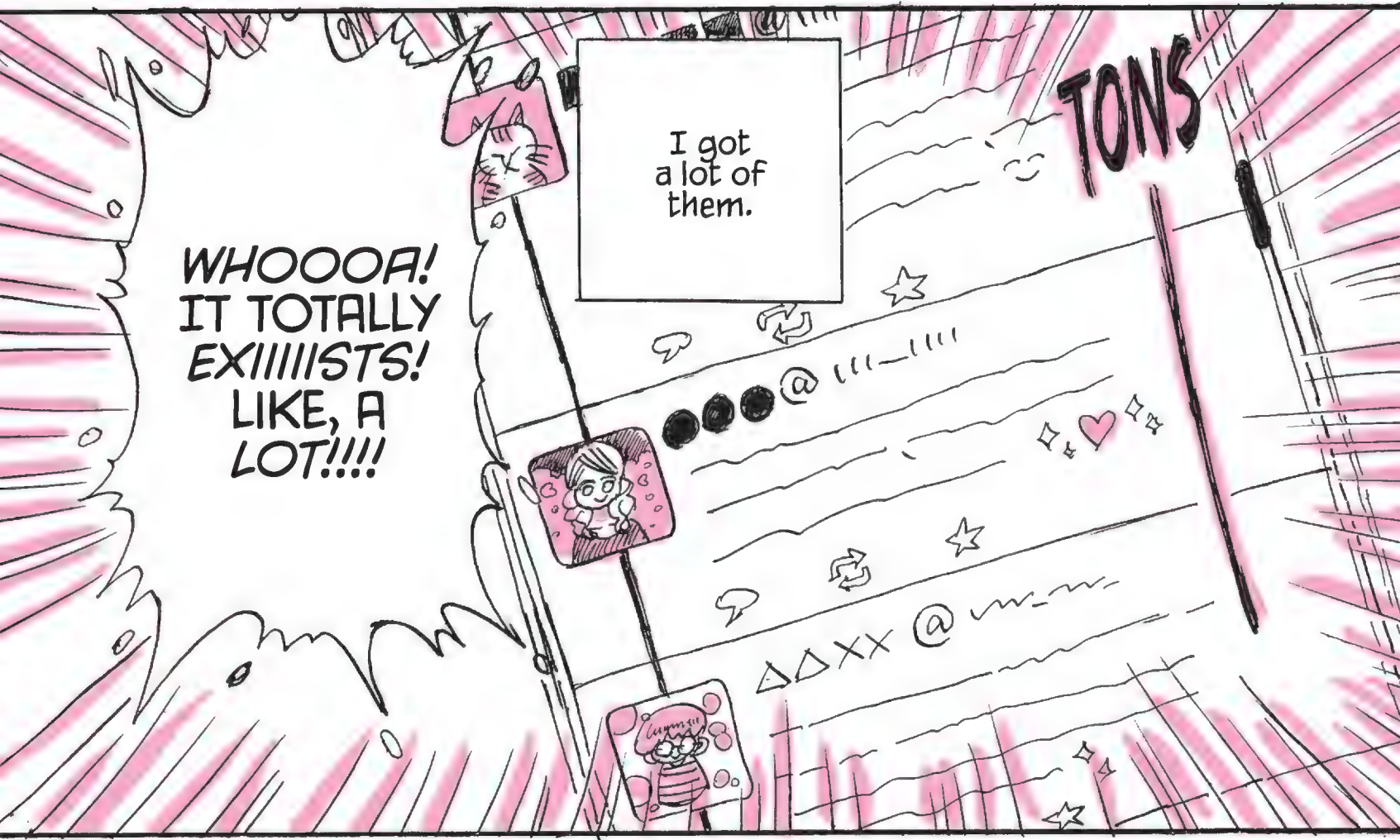
y-you...





and
asked for
stories of
love between
partners.

I jumped
on
Twitter...



I got
a lot of
them.

WHOOOA!
IT TOTALLY
EXIIIIISTS!
LIKE, A
LOT!!!!

TONS



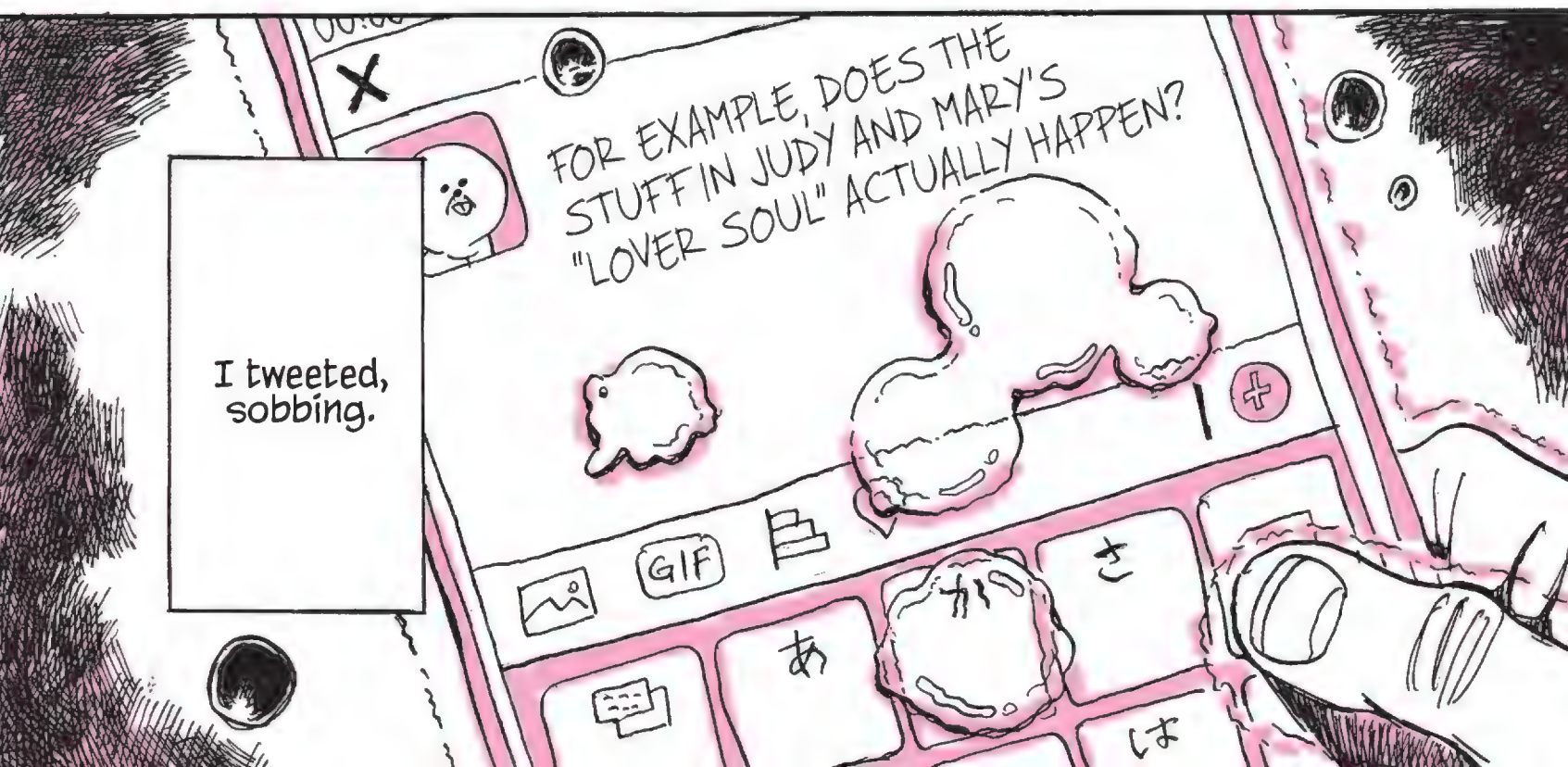
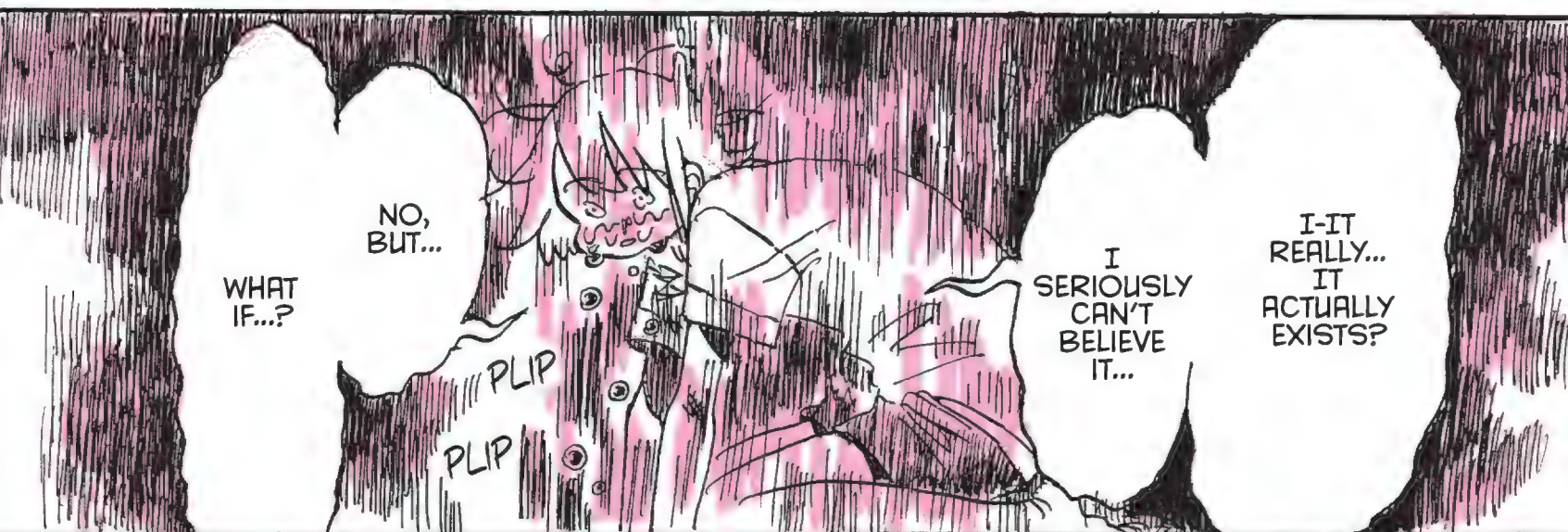
And
then...

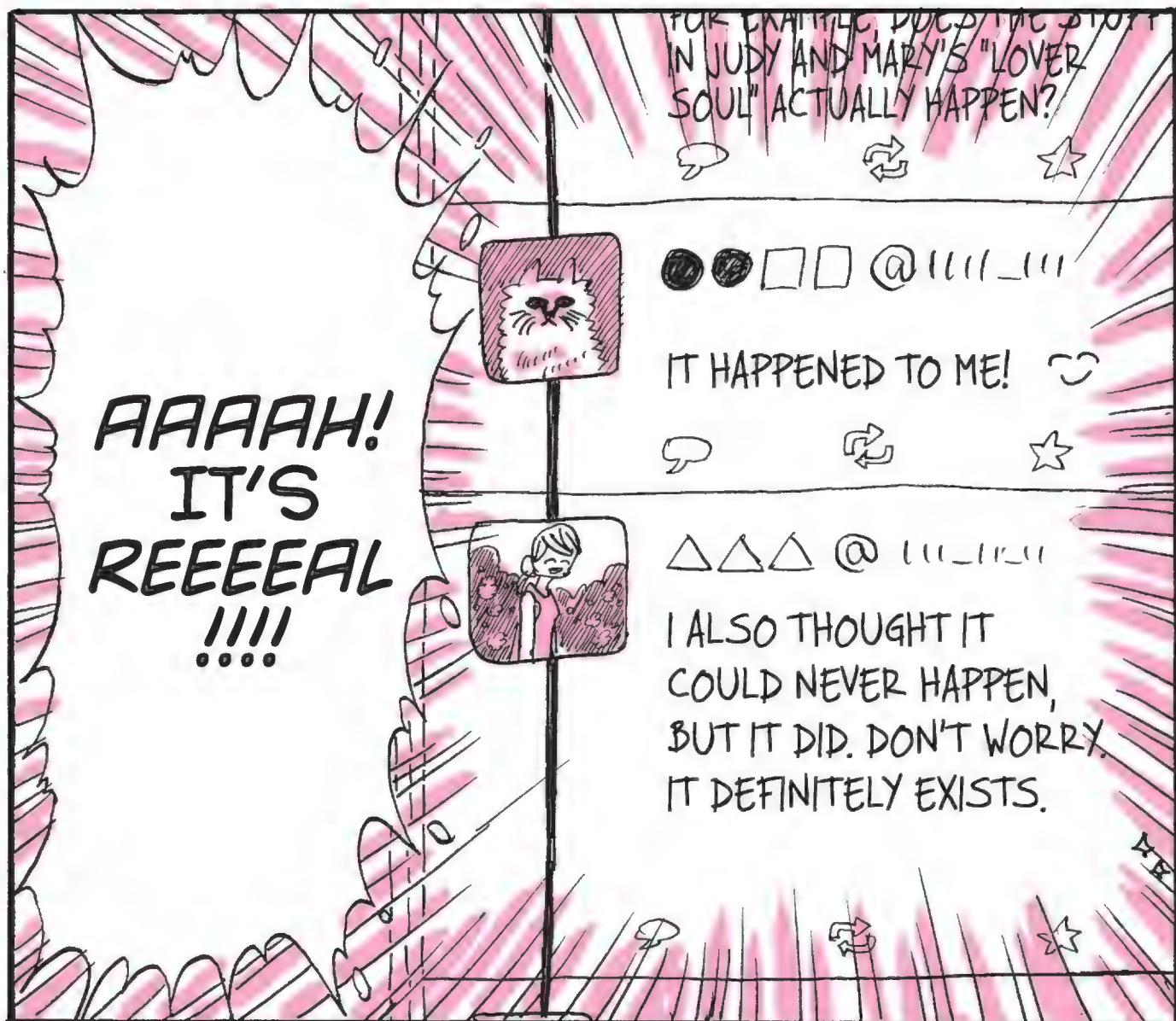
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT.

STAGGER...

STAGGER...

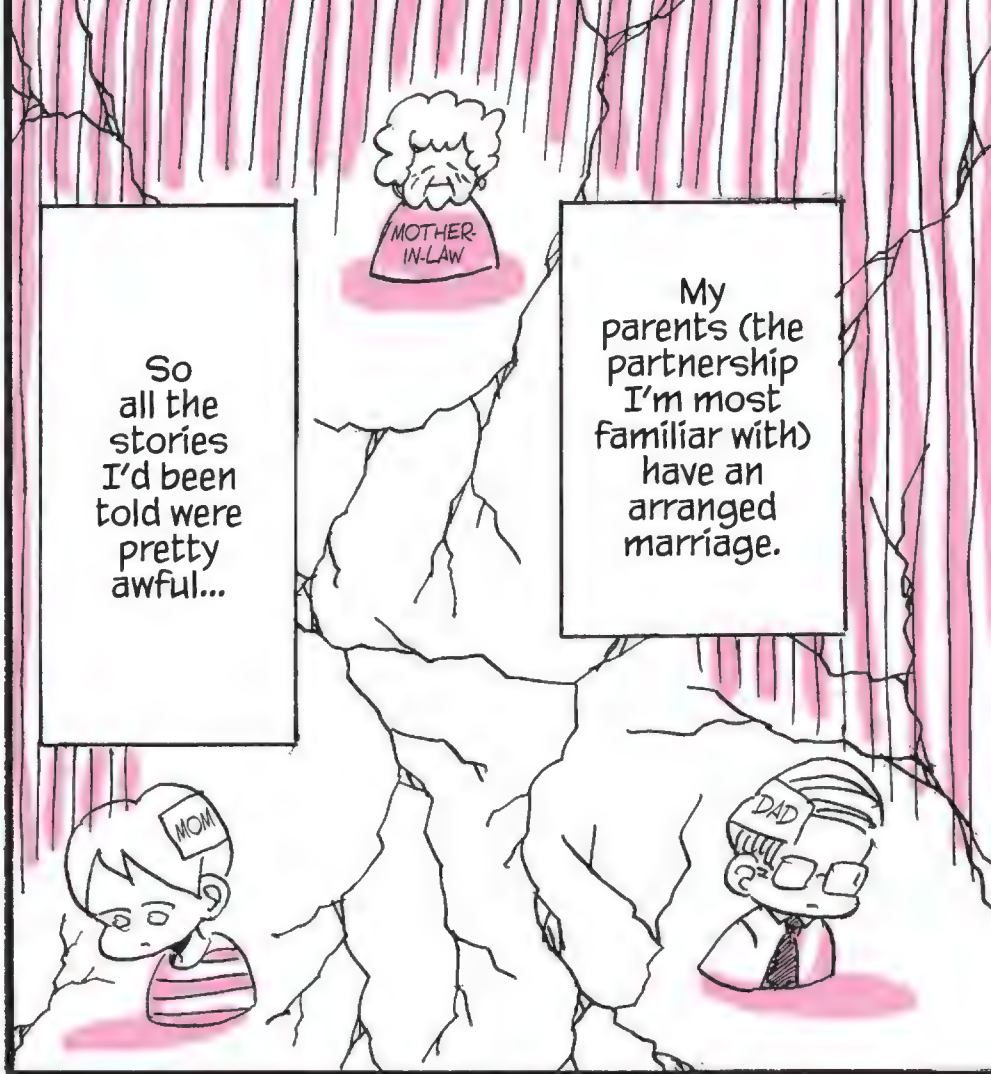
S...
SERIOUSLY...
FOR
REAL...







and my perception of love between partners was super skewed from the start.



So all the stories I'd been told were pretty awful...

My parents (the partnership I'm most familiar with) have an arranged marriage.



The idea shot through me.

THAT REALLY EXISTS SOMEWHERE!

Then, something unexpected arose from my revelations.

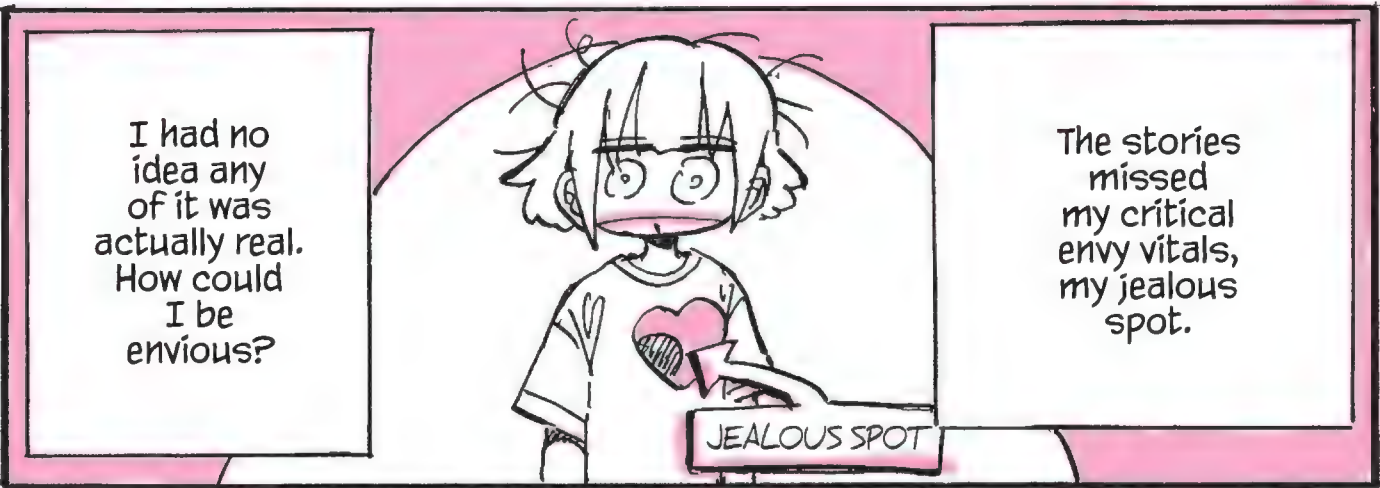
All those love songs I listened to, thinking they were just fantasies...



That's what I thought.

SUCH HOPE!!!!

I'm a deeply envious person. Yet the stories I collected on Twitter didn't make me jealous. Instead...



I had no idea any of it was actually real. How could I be envious?

The stories missed my critical envy vitals, my jealous spot.

JEALOUS SPOT



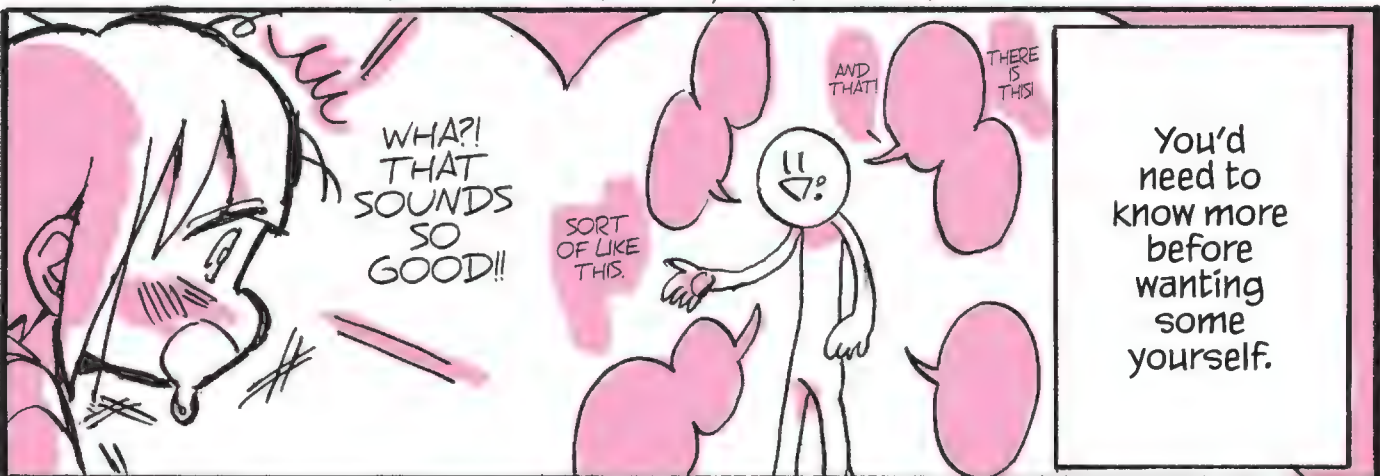
there's nothing to be envious of, because you don't know what it is.



I HAD SOME VEPŘO KNEDLO ZELO!!*

Think of it this way. If someone raves about a dish you've never eaten or even heard of before...

(A DISH FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC, APPARENTLY.)



WHAT? THAT SOUNDS SO GOOD!!



AND THAT!

You'd need to know more before wanting some yourself.

SORT OF LIKE THIS.

THERE IS THIS!

I was easily moved by the warm stories about partners on Twitter.



And so, I listened to love songs and sobbed with abandon.

I WANT TO LEARN MORE!!

LOOKING FOR STORIES AND FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS OF PARTNERS WHO ARE CLOSE.

AAAAH, THE WORLD IS FULL OF THIS KIND OF WONDERFUL LOVE! AMAZING!!!!

I'M ACTUALLY GETTING MARRIED.



When I saw my friend for the first time in a while...



WE
ACTUALLY
MET
THROUGH
A DATING
APP.

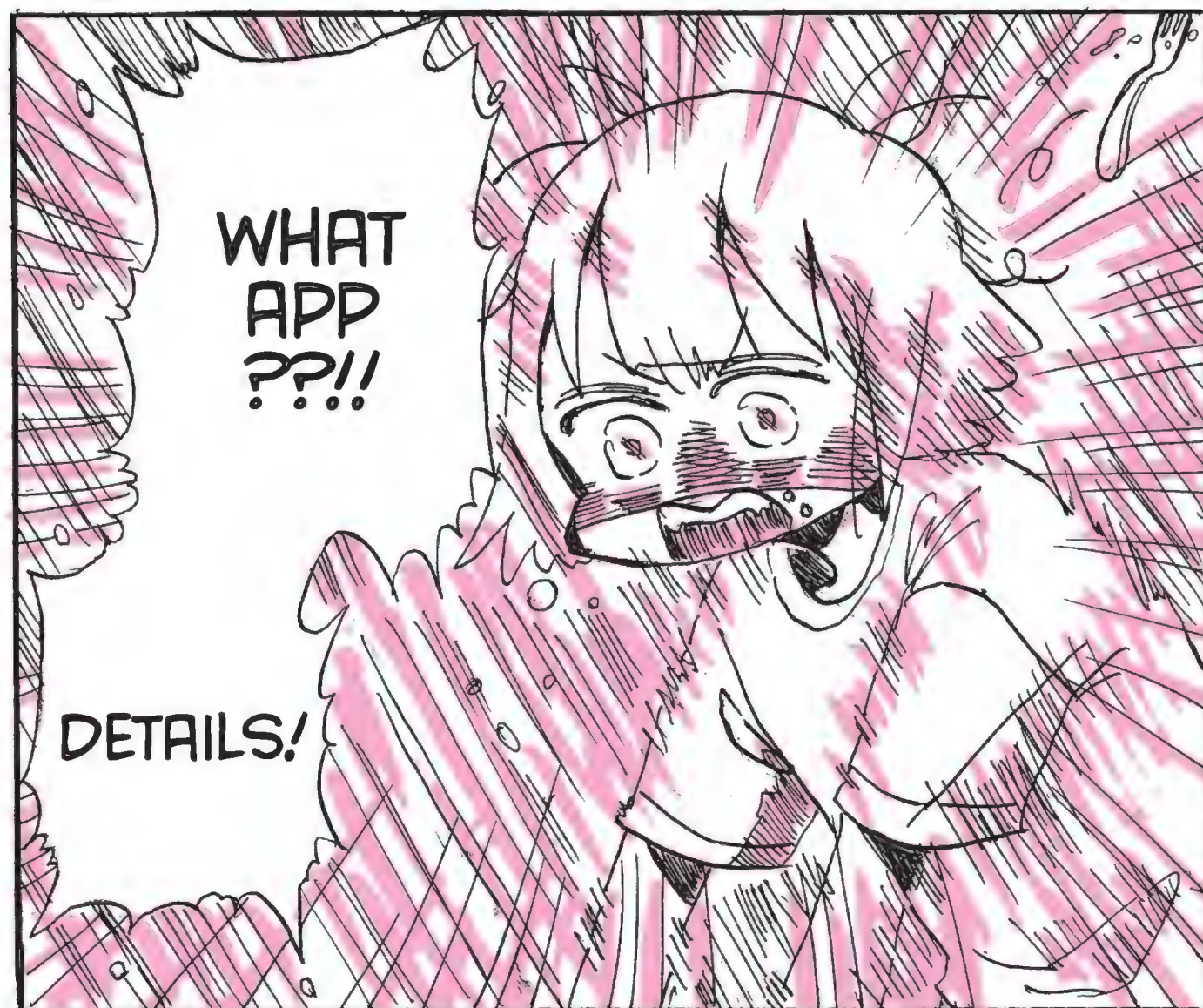
As we
talked
about this
and that,
I learned...



I really did
mean that
from the
bottom of
my heart.

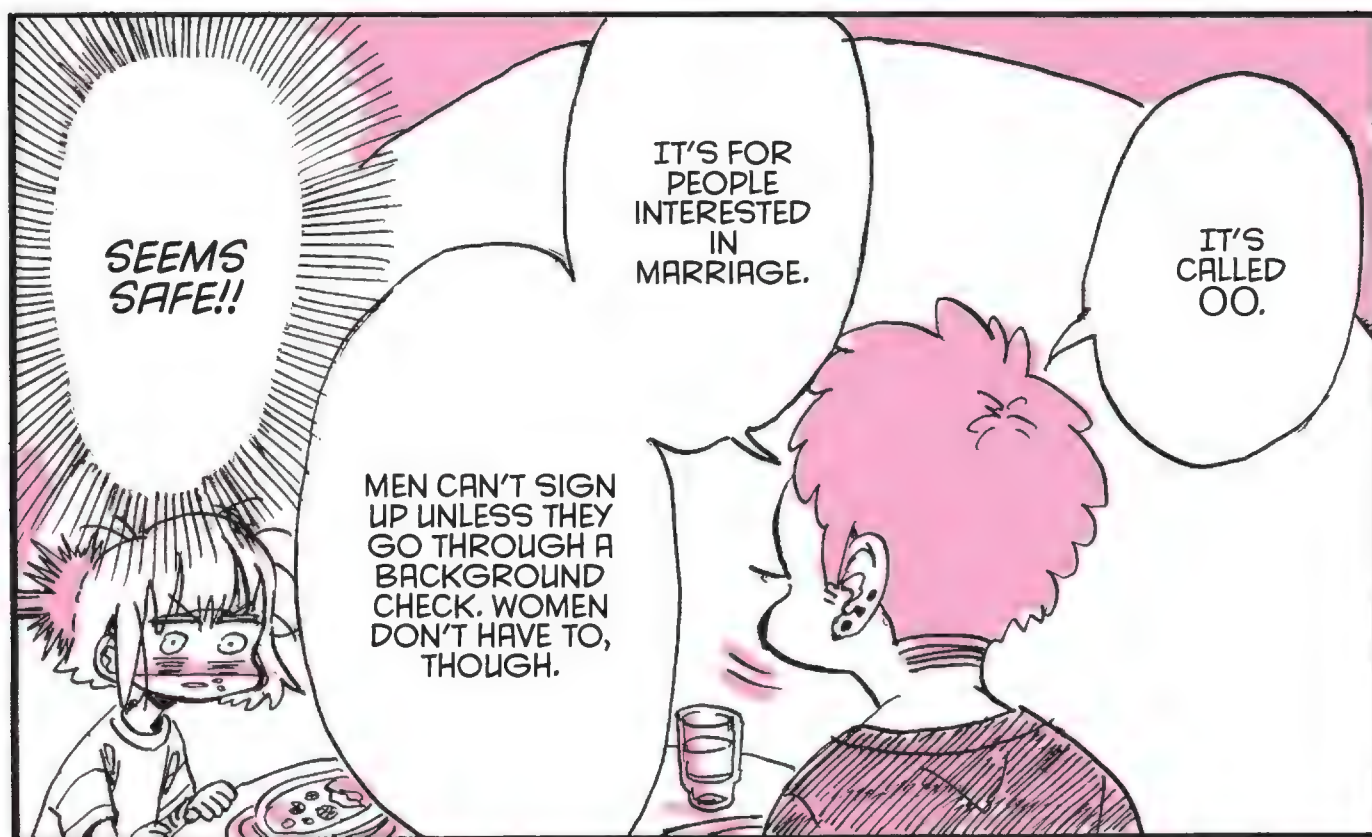
WHAT??!!
CON-
GRATU-
LATIONS
!!!!

EH
HEH
HEH!



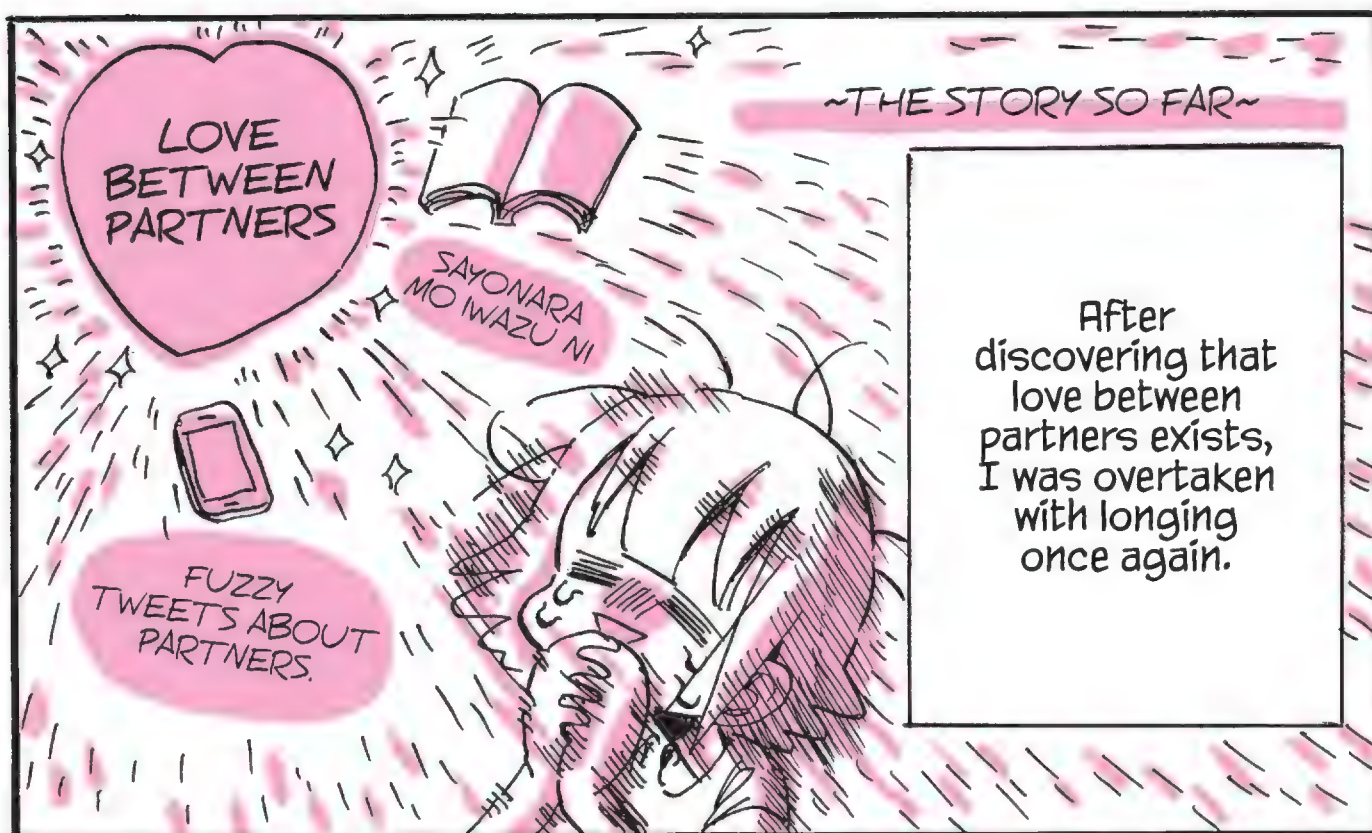
WHAT
APP
??!!

DETAILS!



And so, Nagata decided to sign up for a dating app. Will she finally love and be loved as she so desperately desires?!

My
Wandering
Warrior
Existence



~THE STORY SO FAR~

After discovering that love between partners exists, I was overtaken with longing once again.

Chapter 3: I Tried a Dating App



I COULD SIGN UP (FOR THAT APP).

So I decided to sign up for a dating app.



REGISTRATION

- 1 DOWNLOAD APP, REGISTER.
- 2 CONFIRM AGE.
- 3 CREATE PROFILE (UP TO THREE PHOTOS, NAME, AGE, AREA OF RESIDENCE, HIGHLIGHTS, INTRODUCTION). 
- 4 LIST HOBBIES ("I LIKE MOVIES!" OR "I LIKE SWEETS!" OR "I LIKE ART!" ETC.) TO MEET PEOPLE WITH SHARED INTERESTS. 

The app's match-to-meetup process basically worked like this...

MATCHING

- 5 FIND A MATCH BY GIVING OUT THE TWENTY "CARDS" YOU GET EACH DAY; VIEW POTENTIAL PARTNERS; LIKE/DISLIKE THEM. 
- 6 "LIKE" SOMEONE.
- 7 IF THEY LIKE YOU BACK...

PERFECT MATCH!!!



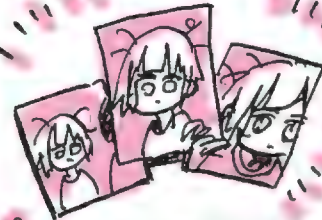
MEETING

- 8 PLAN A DATE VIA MESSAGES.
- 9 MEET!!!! 

THE REST IS UP TO THE YOUNG COUPLE...

I made sure
to write about
myself in a
negative light,
to avoid
disappointing
anyone I might
meet in person.

- MENTALLY ILL
(GETTING TREATMENT).
- I'M OFTEN MISTAKEN
FOR A GUY BECAUSE OF
HOW I LOOK.
- NO DATING EXPERIENCE
ET CETERA....



2 UPLOAD.



I downloaded
the app, did the
registration stuff,
and uploaded
three decent
selfies I took
ages ago.

1 DOWNLOAD
APP.



TERROR: 100
JOY: 0

BUT...
WHY???!
I WROTE
SUPER
SOCIALY
UNACCEPTABLE
THINGS!!

And
so...

WHY???!
THIS IS
SCARY!!!!

For some
reason,
I got
likes and
messages
right
away.

DU

NOTIFICATIONS

2
LIKES
7
MESSAGES

UN



I
HAVE TO
HIGHLIGHT
MORE
OF MY
FLAWS!!!!

Feeling
like I'd
been
plunged
into the
abyss...



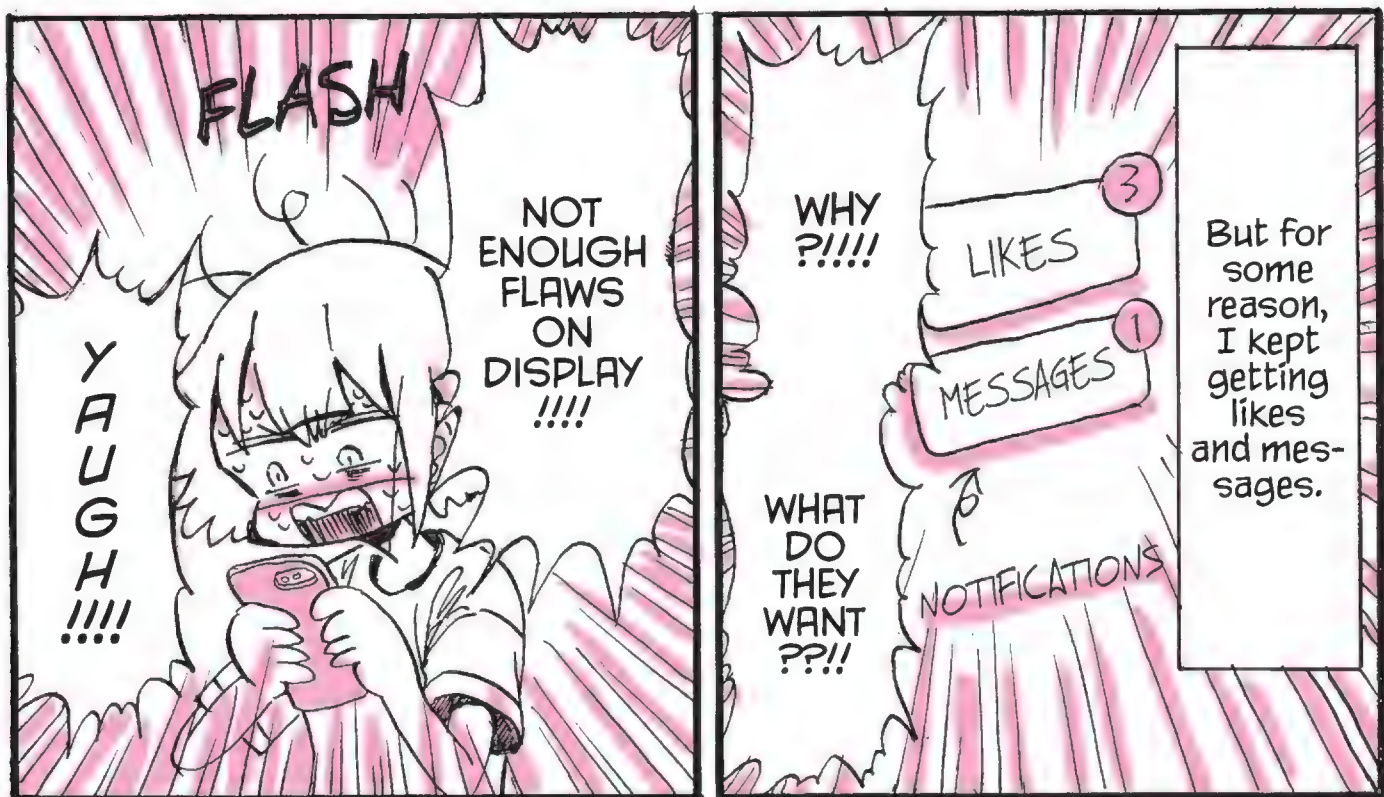
IT WON'T
WORK OUT
UNLESS
I FIND
SOMEONE
WHO CAN
GET PAST
ALL OF
THAT!!

I put
together
a totally
negative
profile.

ABOUT ME

I'M MENTALLY ILL, I'M
OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR A
MAN BECAUSE OF HOW I
LOOK, AND EVEN AT THIS
AGE, I HAVE ZERO
DATING EXPERIENCE...
ET CETERA...

PER-
FECT
!!

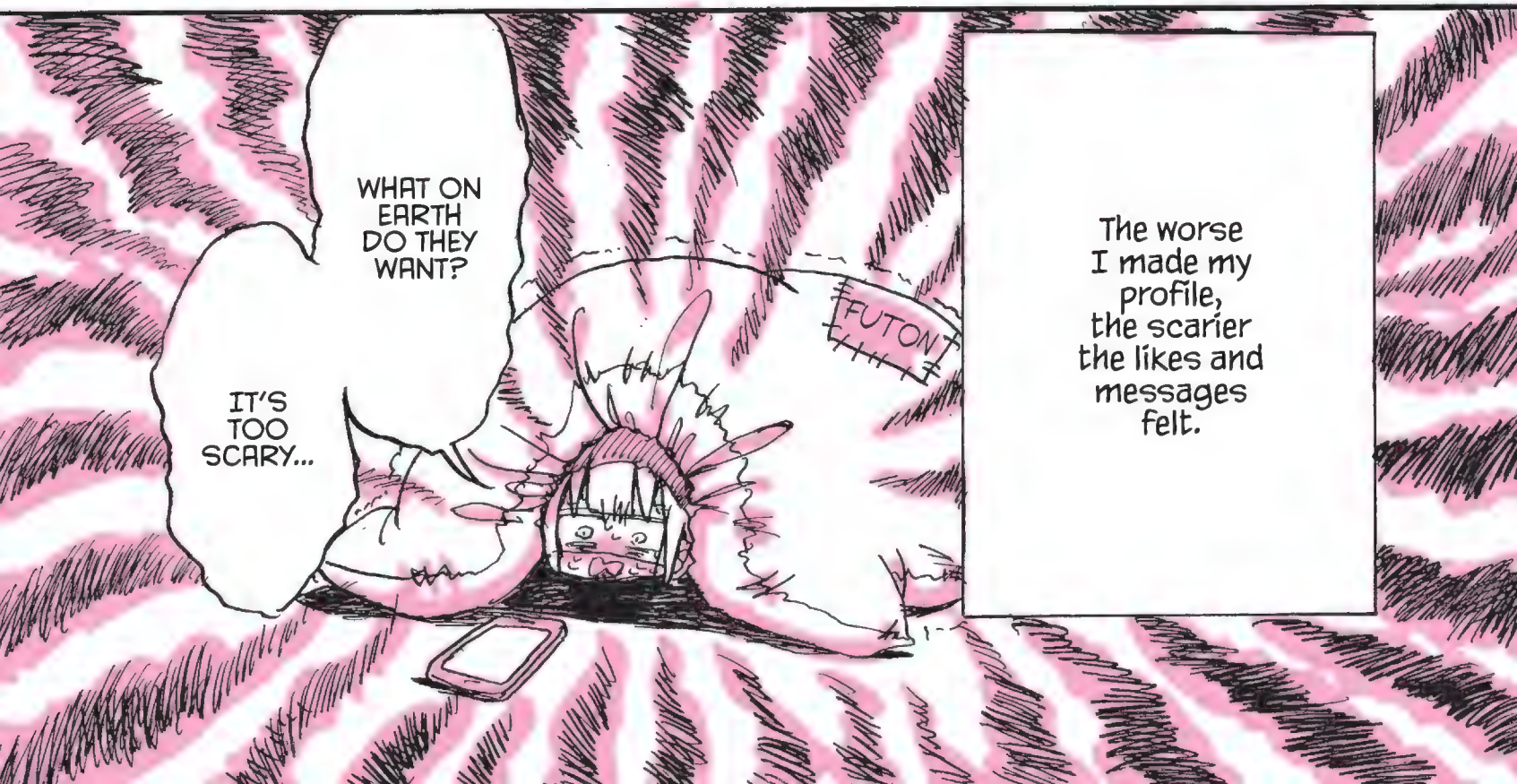
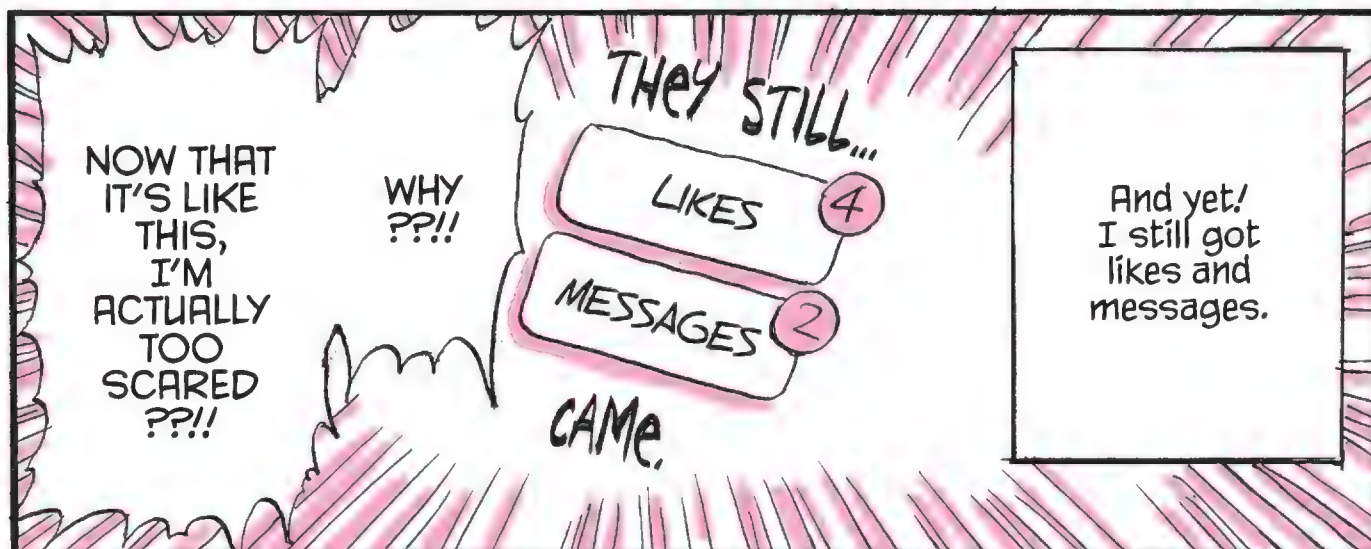


ABOUT ME

I'M MENTALLY ILL AND CURRENTLY IN TREATMENT FOR DEPRESSION, DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS, AND EATING DISORDERS. I'M OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR A MAN BECAUSE OF HOW I LOOK. I'M BASICALLY A TOTAL SHUT-IN, AND I'VE NEVER DATED ANYONE. TO BE HONEST, I'M SUPER HIGH-MAINTENANCE.

I made the worst possible profile.







I kept making my profile worse and worse...

I THINK I WROTE ABOUT HOW BAD MY DRINKING WAS, TOO.

I SHOULD HAVE SAVED IT.

I can't remember my profile's final form, but it was the absolute worst one I could think up.

SCARY! SCARY!
SCARY! WHY??!!

WHAT DO THEY WANT ??!!

and the "I can bag this one" likes kept coming in.

AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY.

I CAN'T
!!!!

PEOPLE ARE SCARY
!!!!

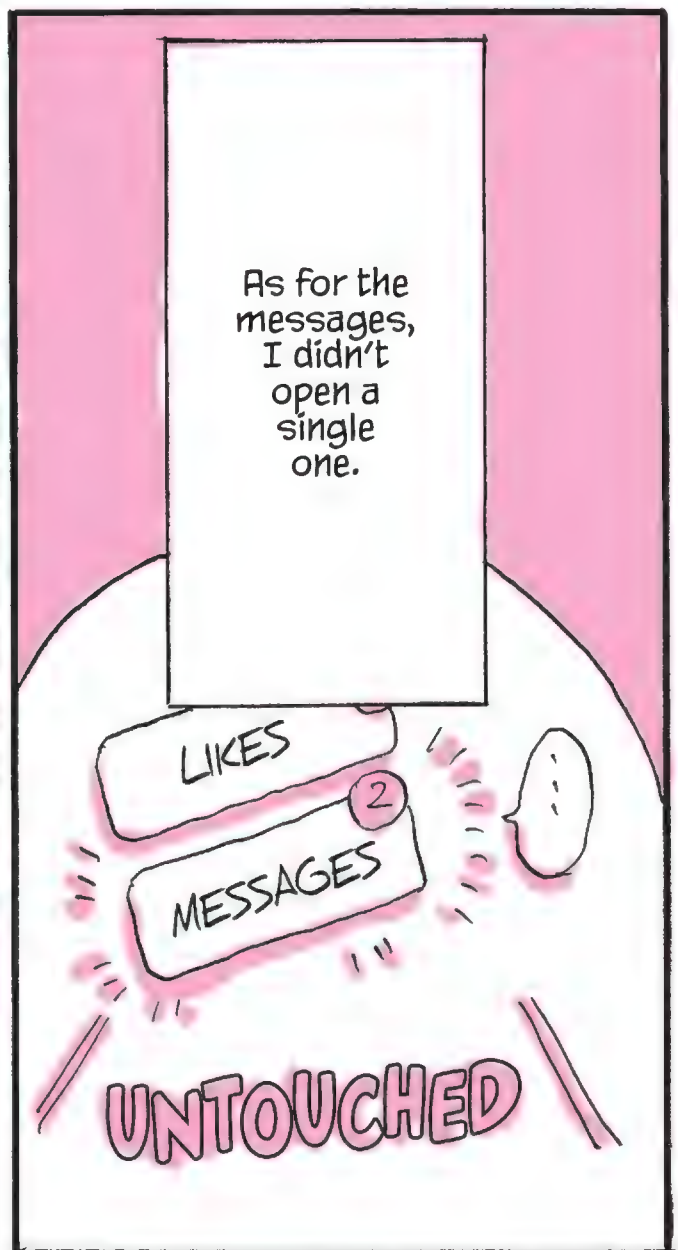
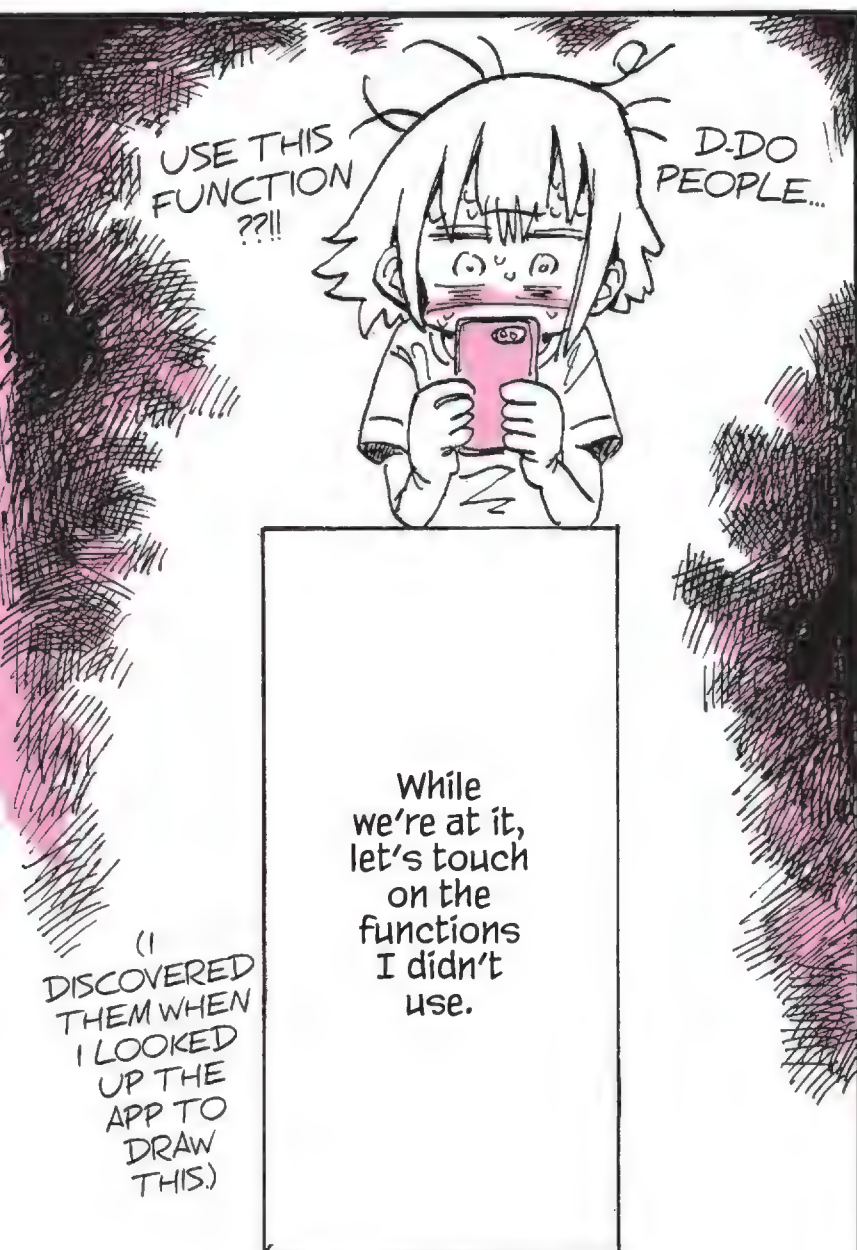
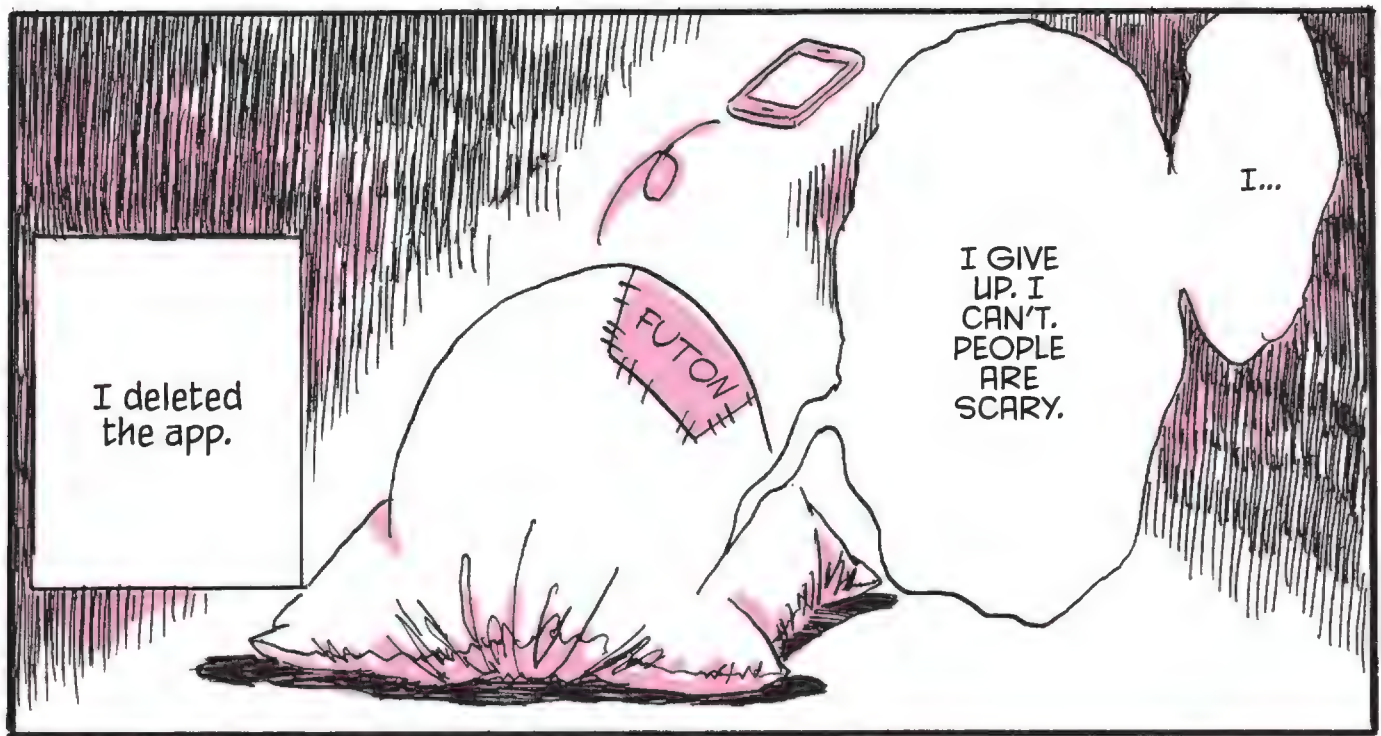
THIS IS SCARY
!!!!

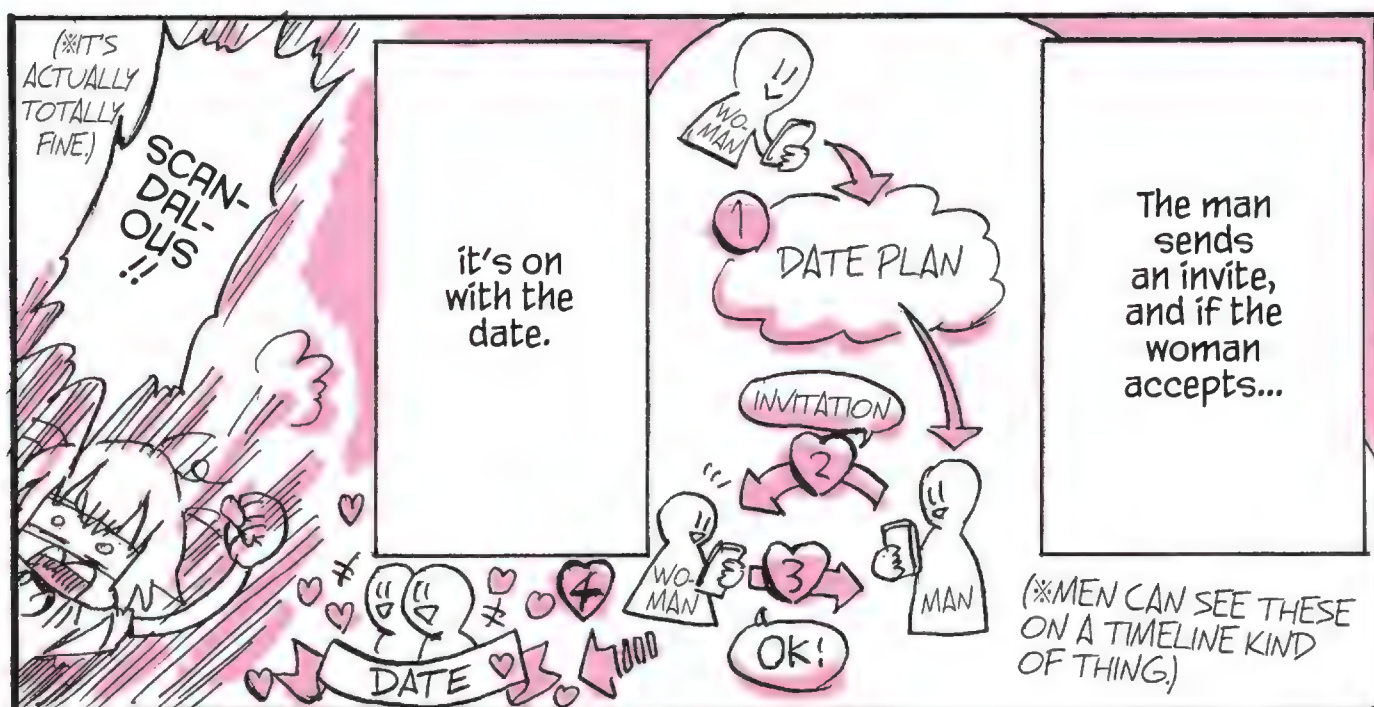
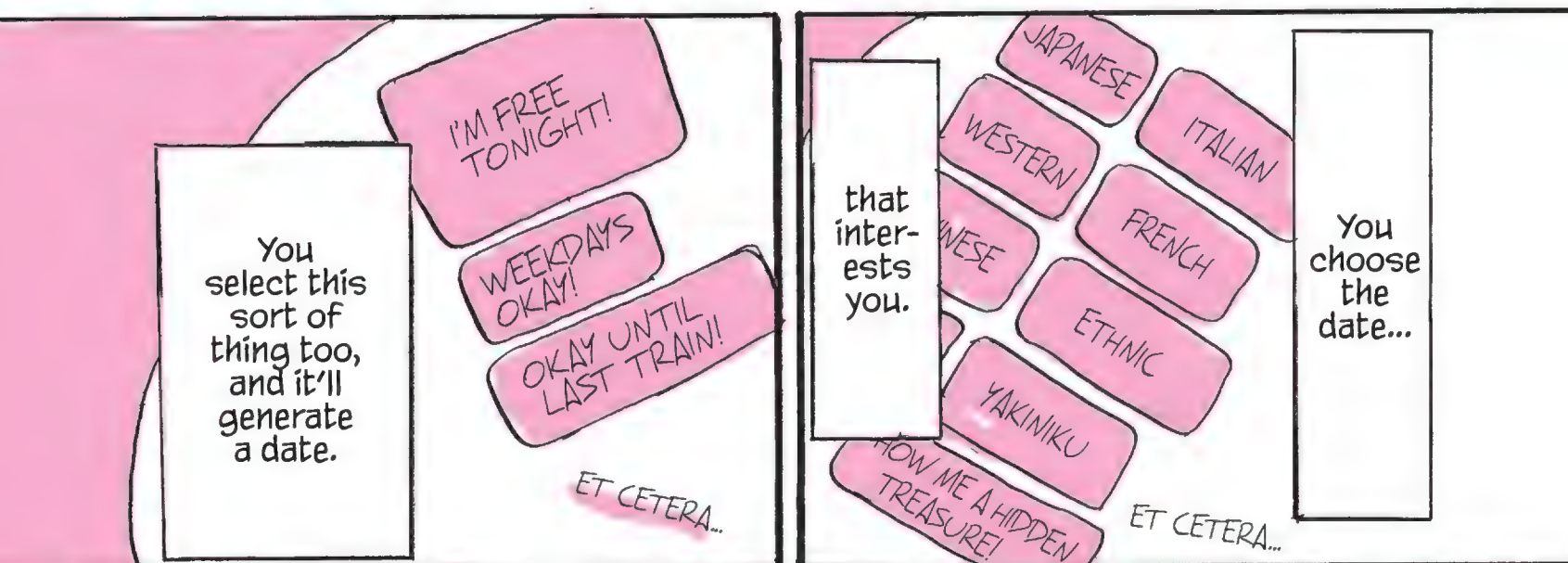
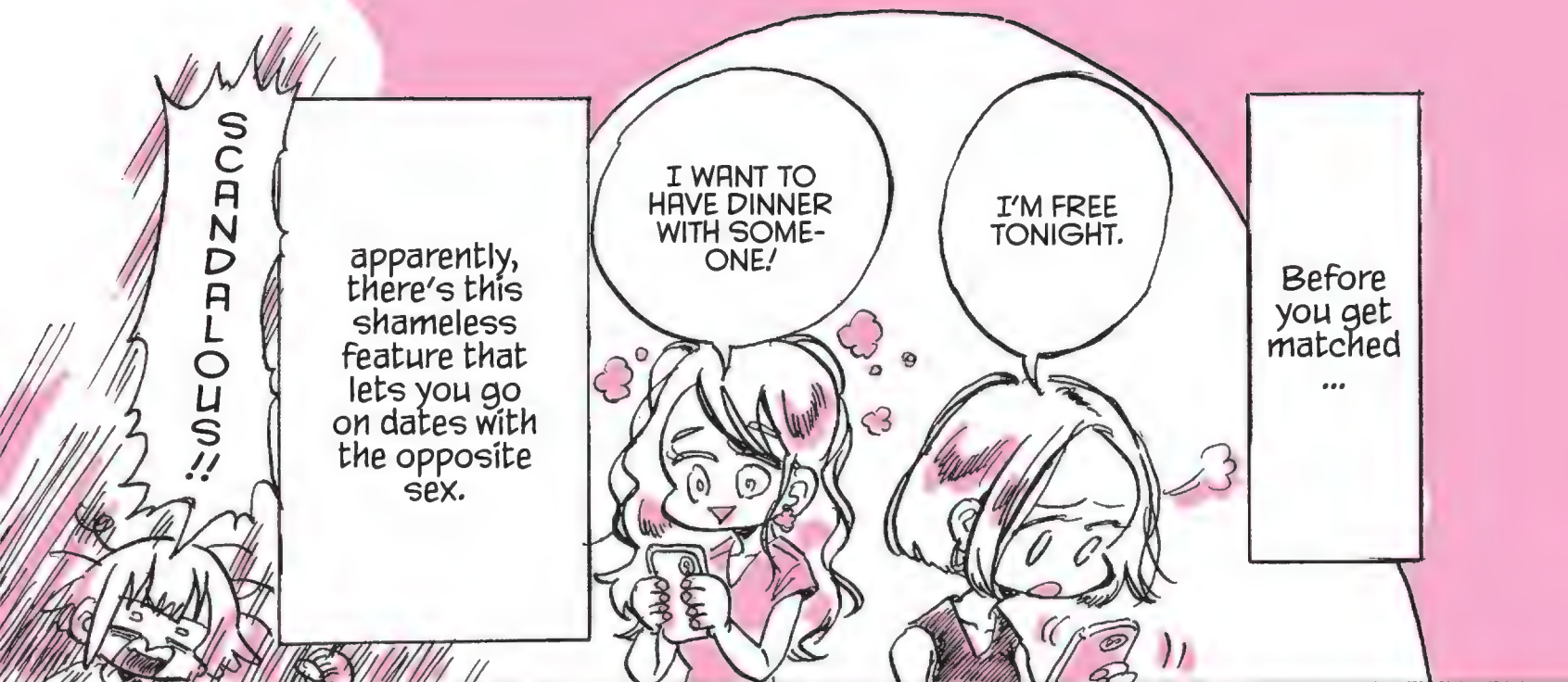
my fear reached its peak, and...

Due to the increasing "I can bag this one" likes...

LIKES

MESSAGES





X NARROW	20	SAITAMA, CHIBA
AGE		
RESIDENCE		
HOMETOWN	ANY	
BLOOD TYPE	ANY	
EDUCATION	ANY	

There's also an advanced search function, so you can filter people by age, area of residence, and so on.

MATCHING

① WHEN YOU TAP "LIKE," A NOTIFICATION IS SENT TO THE PERSON YOU LIKED.

↓

② IF YOU SEND A LIKE BACK **THAT'S A MATCH!!**

↓

③ YOU'RE NOW ABLE TO EXCHANGE MESSAGES.

(AND MEET IN PERSON AND STUFF--APPARENTLY.)

GOT LOTS OF THOSE.

♡♡

APPARENTLY!!

KIND OF FAST?!

The basic function (which I never used) that leads to a match works like this.



MENDELSSOHN
(1809-1847)

If I divided what I could do and what fear kept me from doing into zones...

REGISTRATION

- 1 DOWNLOAD APP, REGISTER.
- 2 CONFIRM AGE.
- 3 CREATE PROFILE (UP TO THREE PHOTOS, NAME, AGE, AREA OF RESIDENCE, HIGHLIGHTS, INTRO).
- 4 LIST HOBBIES ("I LIKE MOVIES!" OR "I LIKE SWEETS!" OR "I LIKE ART!" ETC.) TO MEET PEOPLE WITH SHARED INTERESTS.

MATCHING

- 5 FIND A MATCH BY GIVING OUT THE TWENTY "CARDS" YOU GET EACH DAY; VIEW POTENTIAL PARTNERS; LIKE/DISLIKE THEM.

- 6 "LIKE" SOMEONE.

- 7 IF THEY LIKE YOU BACK...

PERFECT MATCH!!!!

MEET

- 8 PLAN A DATE VIA MESSAGES.

MEET!!!!

DO ZONE

SOME-HOW...

UP TO RIGHT
AROUND HERE...

SCARY!!!!
NO WAY!!!
ZONE

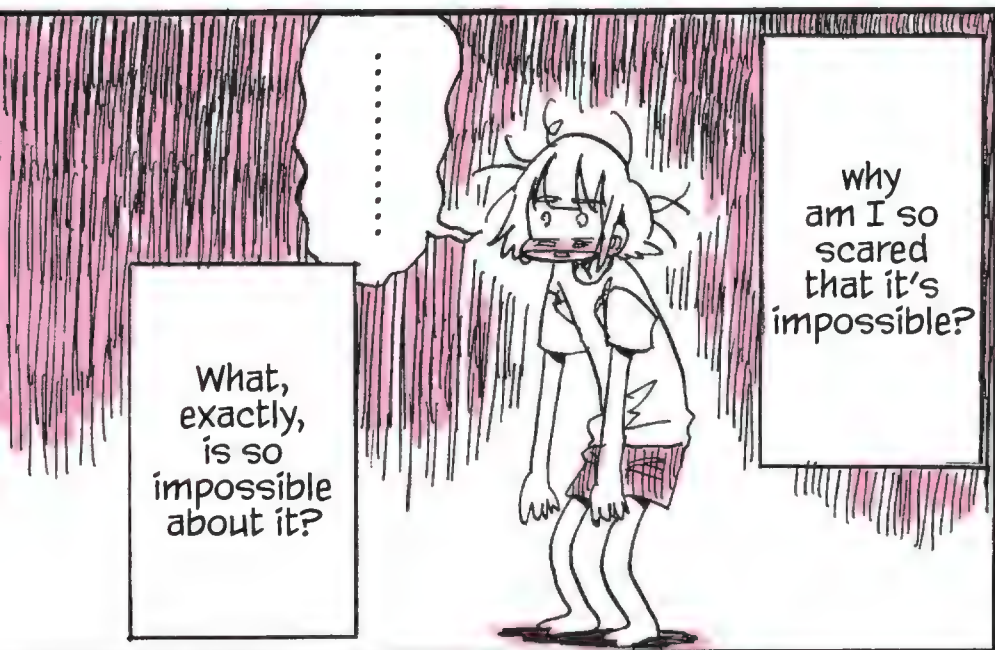
this is
roughly
what it
would
look
like.



and my friend made it all the way to marriage (and is still super happy).



The app is used by tons of people...
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOWNLOADS!!



why am I so scared that it's impossible?



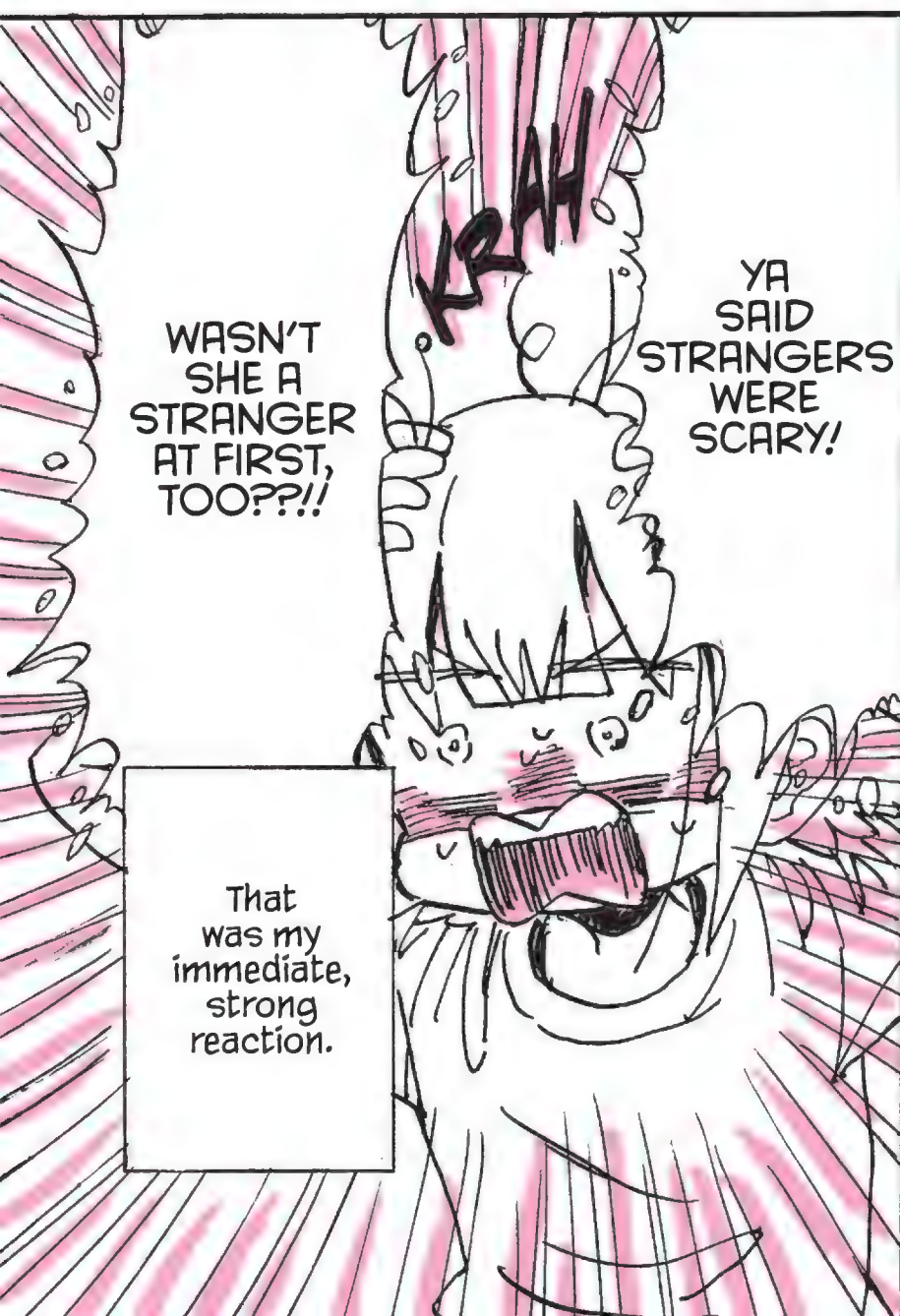
But if it's something everyone does, something everyone can do...



I HONESTLY DON'T GET IT. AREN'T PEOPLE SCARED??

HOW CAN EVERYONE BE FINE WITH DOING SOMETHING THIS SCARY??

Or rather...

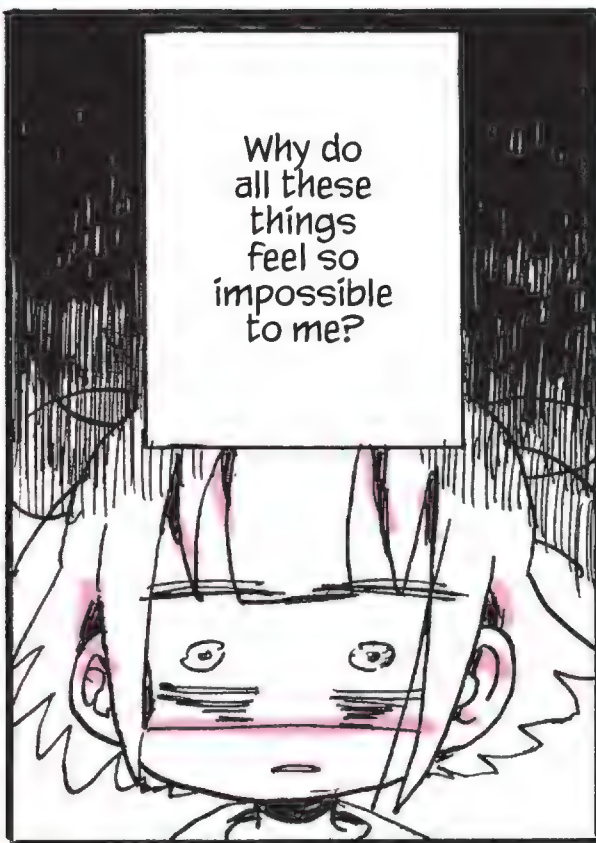


and
strangers
are the
scariest,
so that's
even
scari-er!



Anyway,
people are
scary...

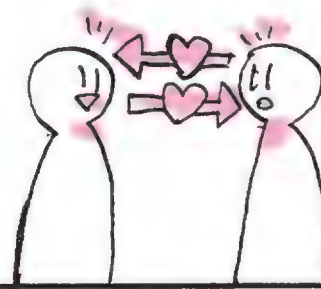
Why do
all these
things
feel so
impossible
to me?



and
even get
married?



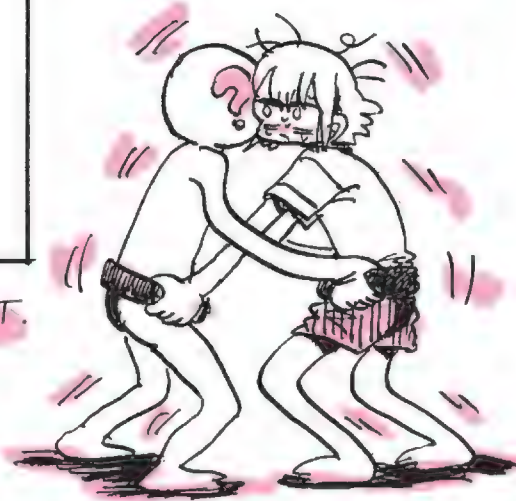
How do
people
meet
other
people,
go on
dates...



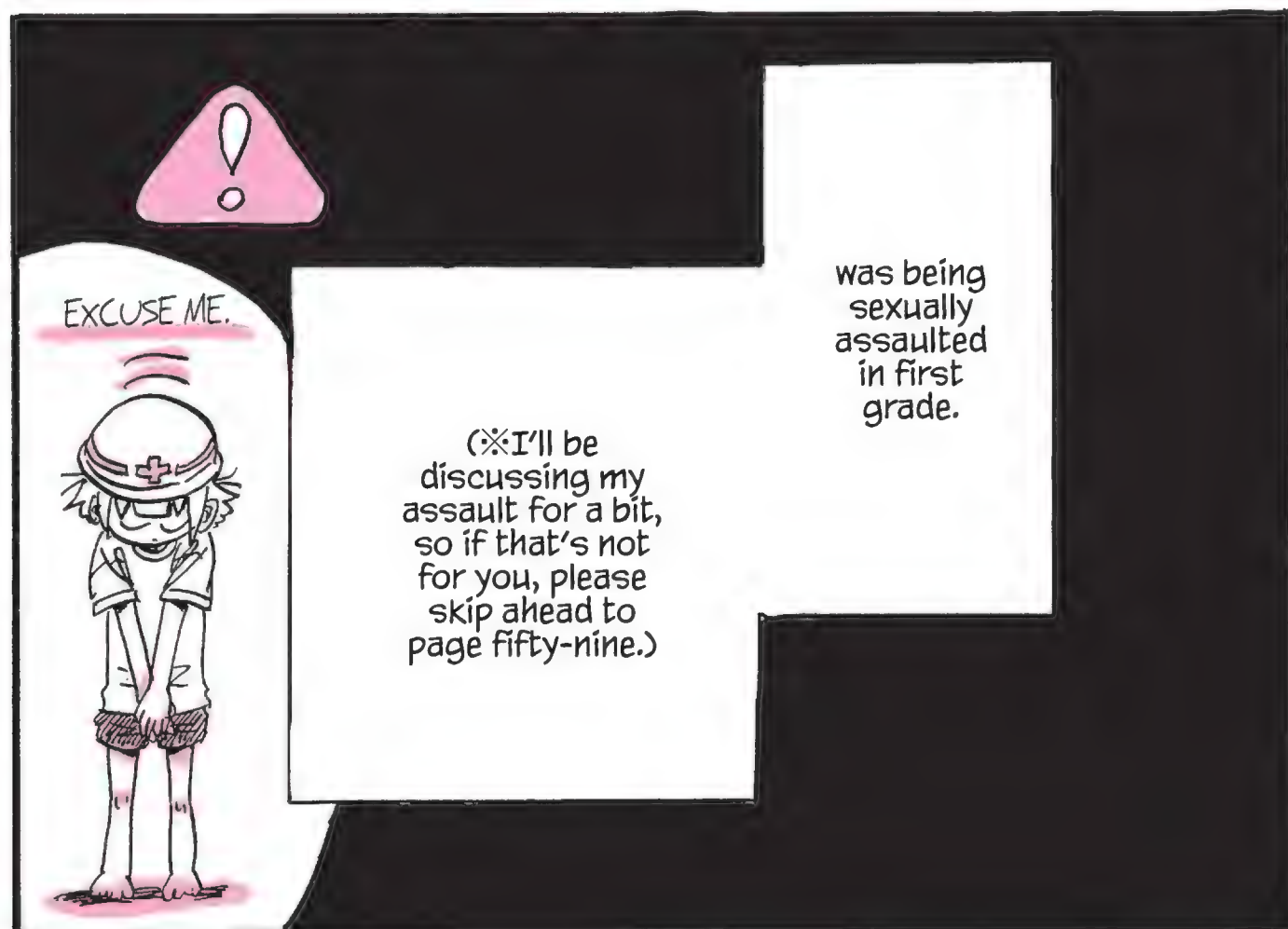
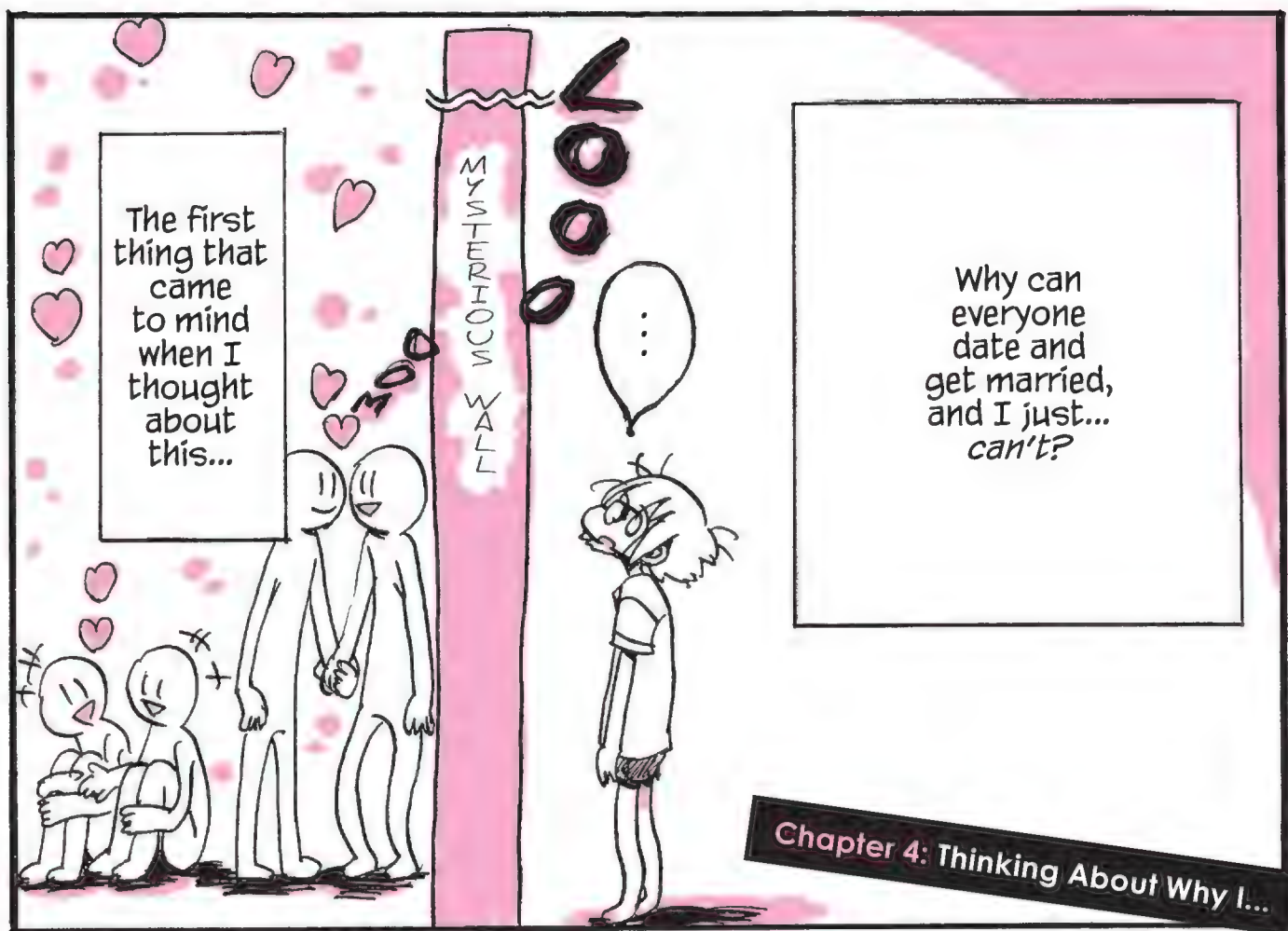
I'll be
thinking hard
about that
in the next
chapter.

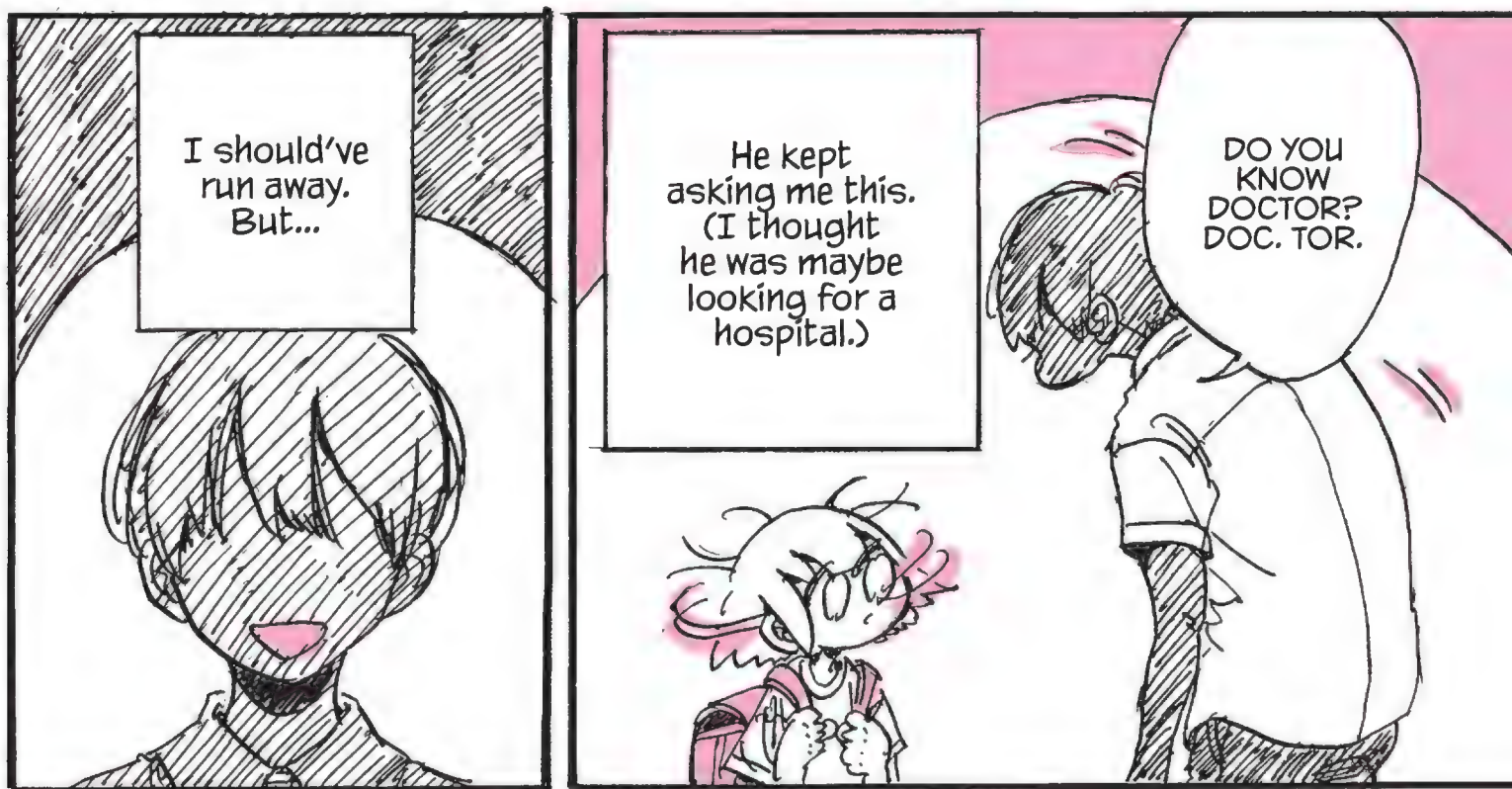
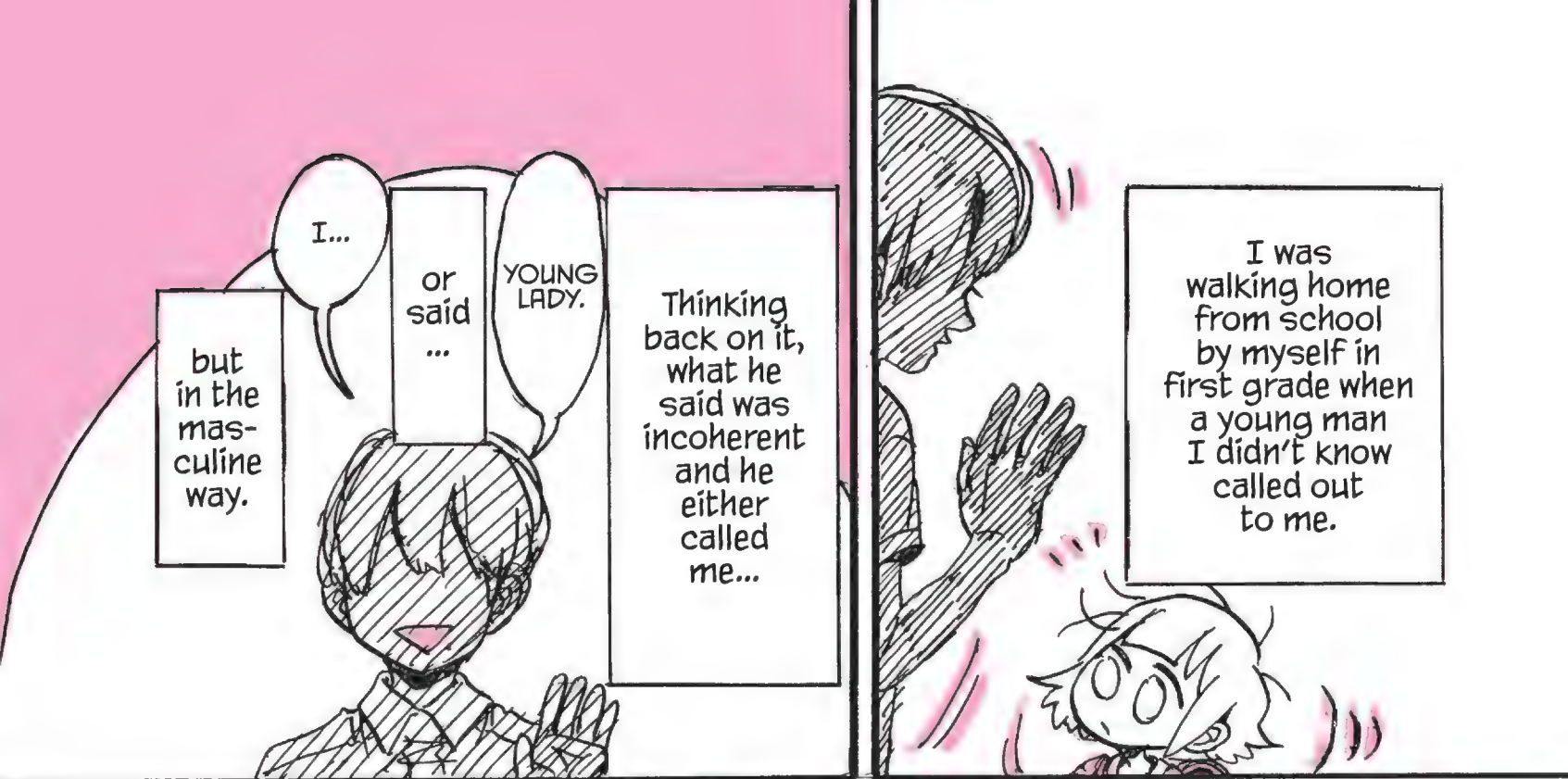
WRESTLING WITH IT.

Chapter 3/END



My
Wandering
Warrior
Existence





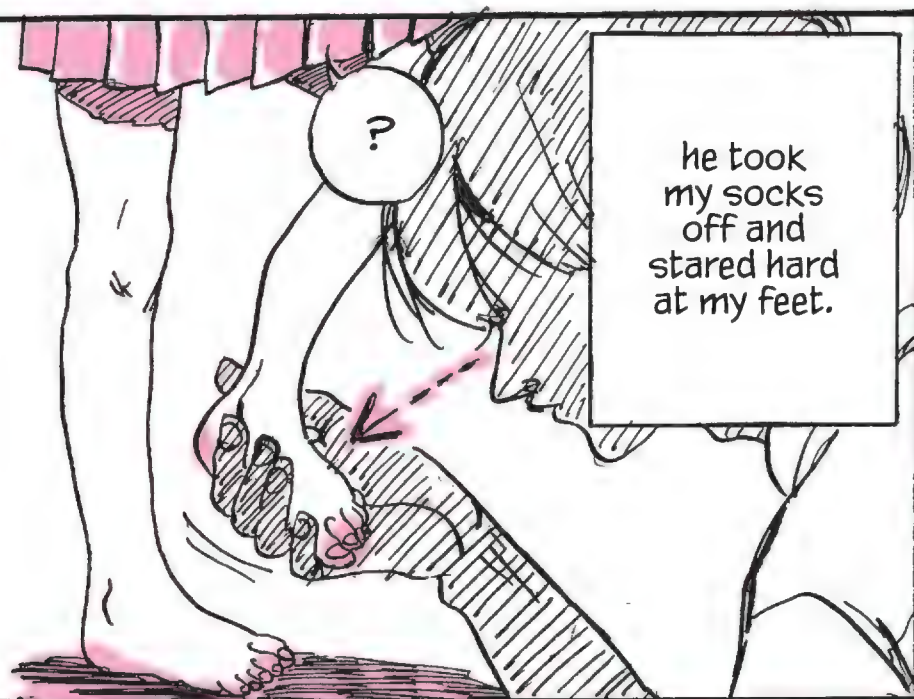
ANOTHER
POSSIBLE
THEORY IS
THAT I'M
JUST AN
IDIOT.

I think it's
difficult
to decide
to say no
in the
moment.

DO
WHAT
HE
SAYS.

HE'S A
GROWN-
UP, SO
I HAVE
TO...

At that age,
you're told on
a daily basis
that you have
to do what
adults tell
you.

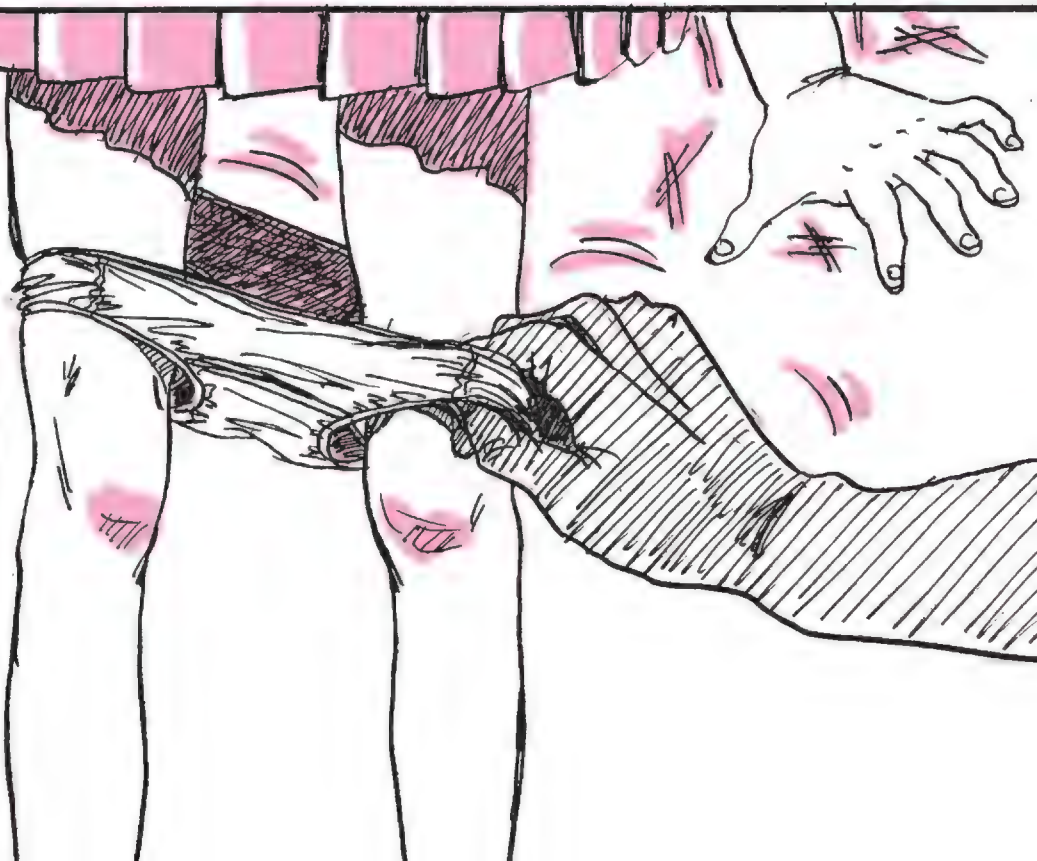


he took
my socks
off and
stared hard
at my feet.



In the
hallway
of an
apartment
building...

Then he
pulled down
my underpants.
Pushing his
hand away
didn't work.
By the time
I realized this
was weird,
it was too
late.



and touched my genitals a number of times.



The man crouched down and put me over his lap like in the diagram...

But it didn't hurt, and I was too scared to lie, so I just kept shaking my head.

DOES IT HURT?

Several times, he asked me...



He wouldn't stop even when I started crying.



and swiftly disappeared from view.

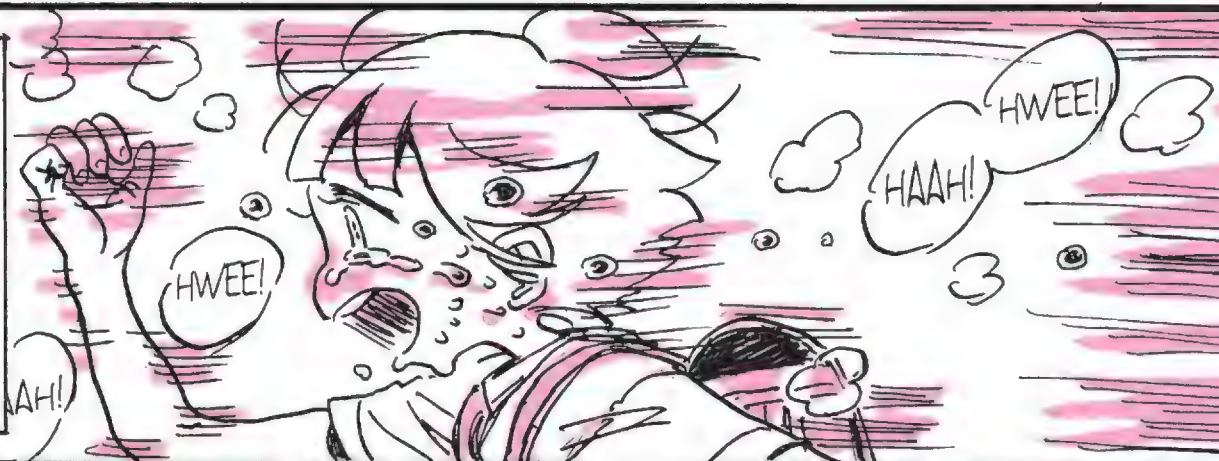


the man got in the elevator...



After touching me for a while...

I ran home as fast as I could.



She hugged me and gave me a bath.



I told my mom everything that happened.

I curled up in terror.

HE CAME AFTER ME!!!!



And then the doorbell rang.

I was so scared, I started to cry. I couldn't move.



MY HANDS ARE FULL! ANSWER THAT!



But a lot of people I know, both married and single, have been sexually assaulted...

THIS IS JUST AS FAR AS I KNOW, BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF US.

Age 32.



I thought this was the reason I couldn't date people.

Age 6.

and they're all able to date and get married.

MARRIAGE

DATING



SO THEN WHAT IS IT, EXACTLY?

So maybe my hypothesis about sexual assault is wrong? Maybe? (The depth of pain varies from person to person, of course. We all experience and recover from trauma differently.)

and get married in the first place.



I don't actually know why people date...

And I get what it's like to love a friend. (I'm pretty fond of my friends.)



I understand becoming friends. Fortunately, I have some of those myself.

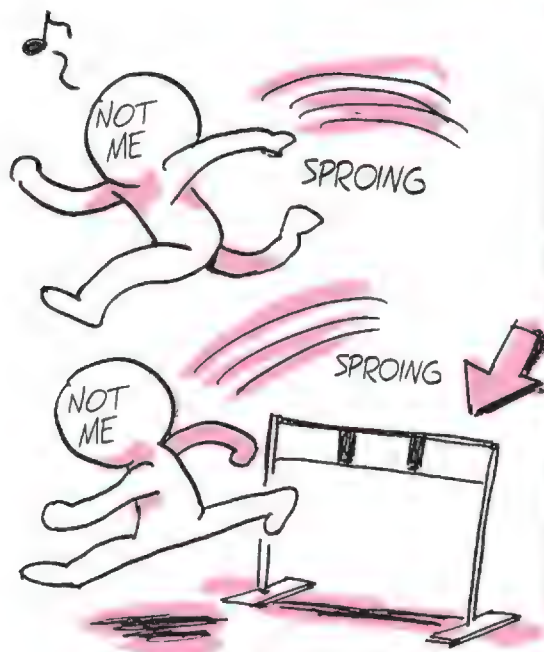


What's the difference between loving a friend and romantic love anyway? I don't get it.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?!



But that doesn't mean you ask them out and start dating.



It's like there's this mysterious hurdle before me that other people can clear, but I can't.



It's not too high for me to jump over. I just don't know how to jump.



I have no clue what its nature is.



What exactly is this mysterious hurdle? Why can't I clear it when everyone else can?



THE OTHER SIDE

Age 6

Lots of people
date and get
married even if
they've been
sexually
assaulted.

their
faith in
other
people
gets
restored.

They have
contact with
all kinds of
people, and
even if they
fail some-
times...

They've
learned
this.

THERE ARE
PEOPLE WHO
DON'T DO
BAD THINGS
TO YOU!!

SO NOT ALL PEOPLE

ARE BAD!!

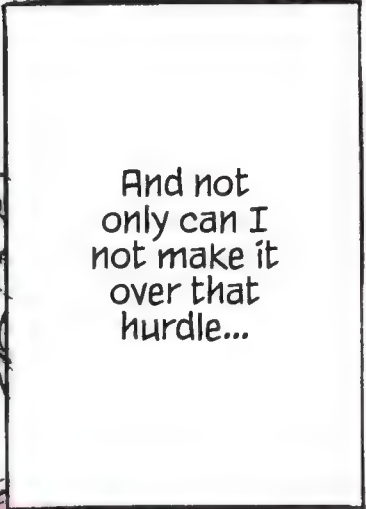
MM- MM-
HMM. HMM.

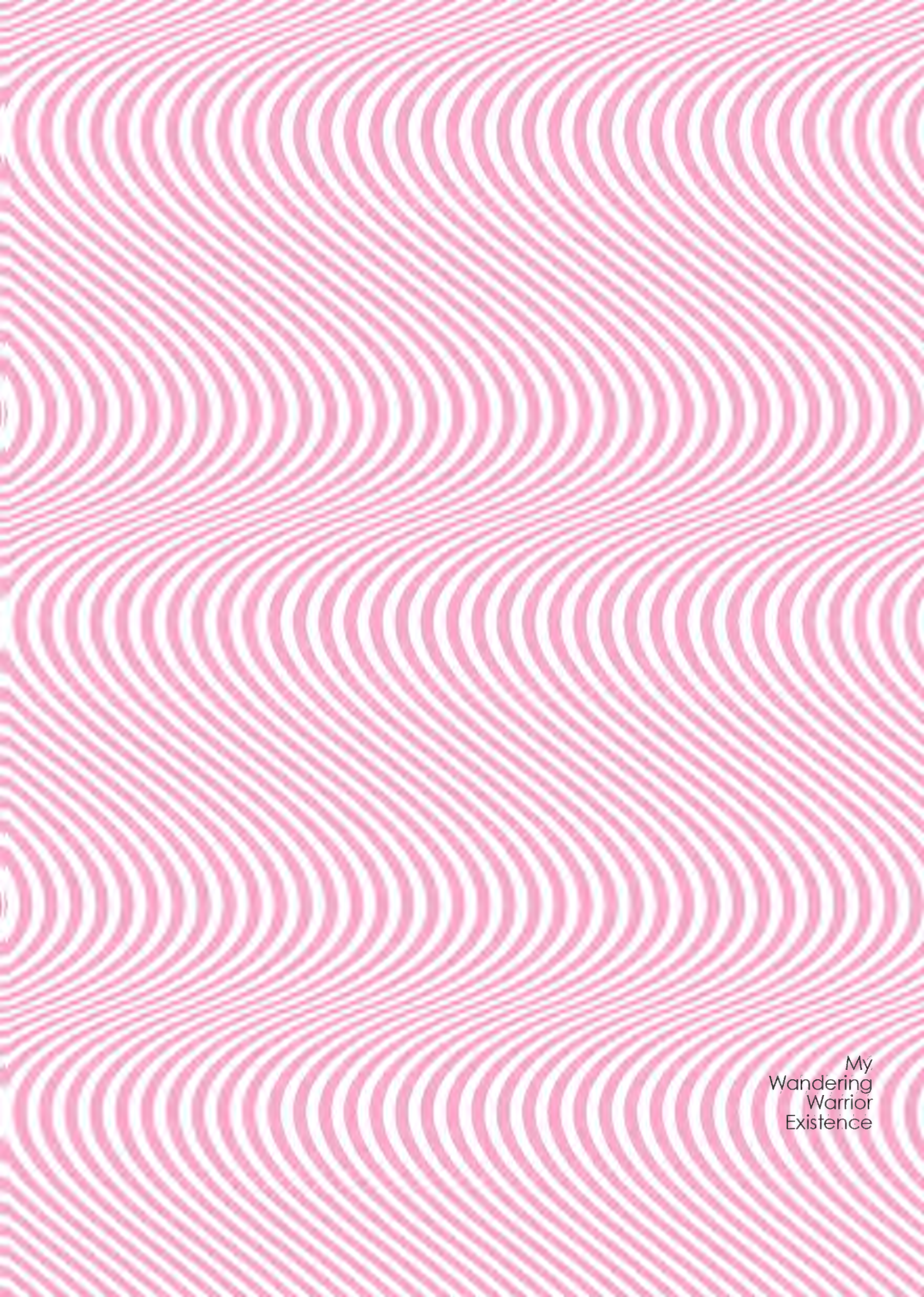
is faith in
other people...
which I don't
have. I've
rejected that
faith.

THE OTHER SIDE

FAITH IN OTHER PEOPLE

I think the
mysterious
hurdle's true
nature...



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of thin, wavy, pink lines on a white background. The lines are arranged in a series of parallel, undulating waves that create a sense of movement and depth. The pattern is consistent across the entire surface.

My
Wandering
Warrior
Existence

~THE STORY SO FAR~

before
I can date
or get
married
to
anyone.

I realized
that there
are countless
hurdles to
jump over...



LOTS

AH!!
THAT'S
...?!!

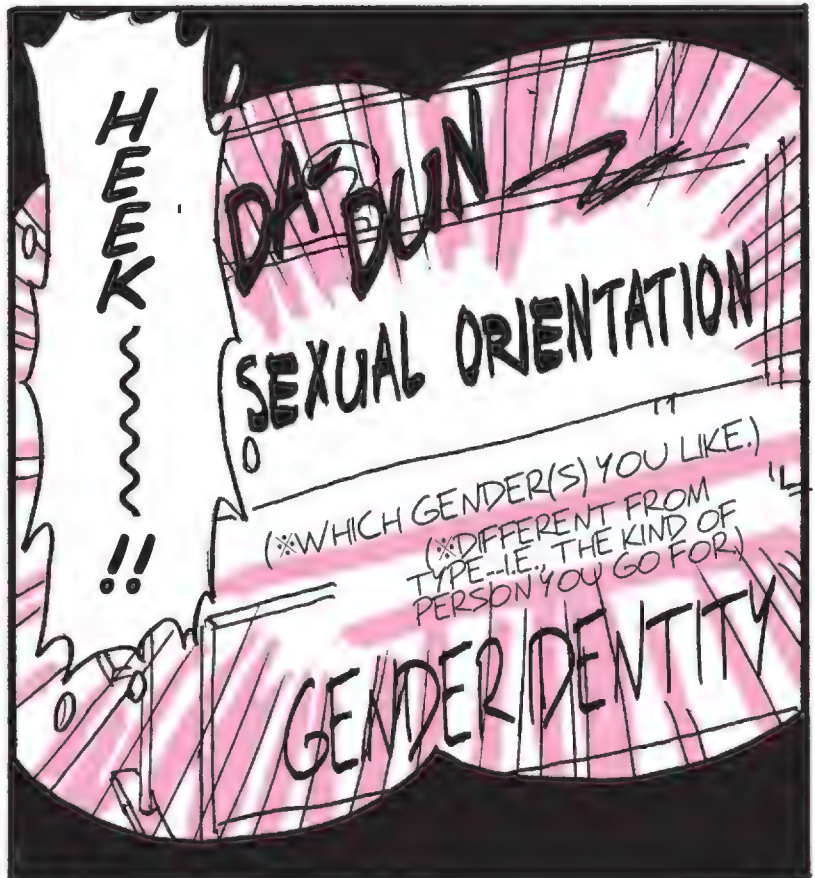
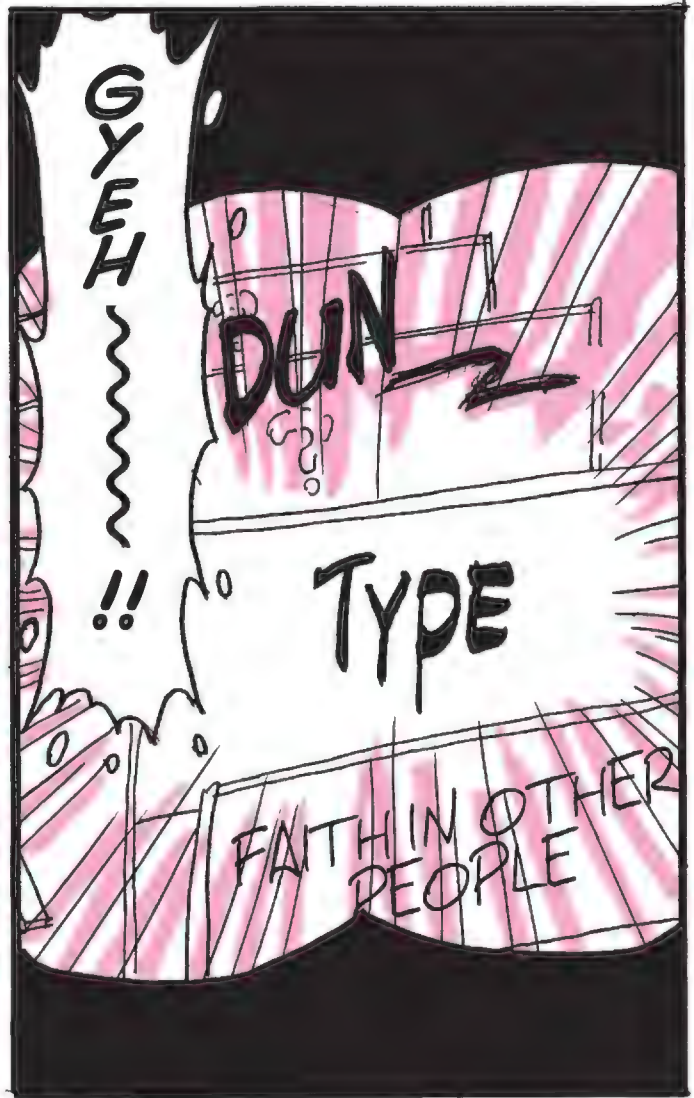
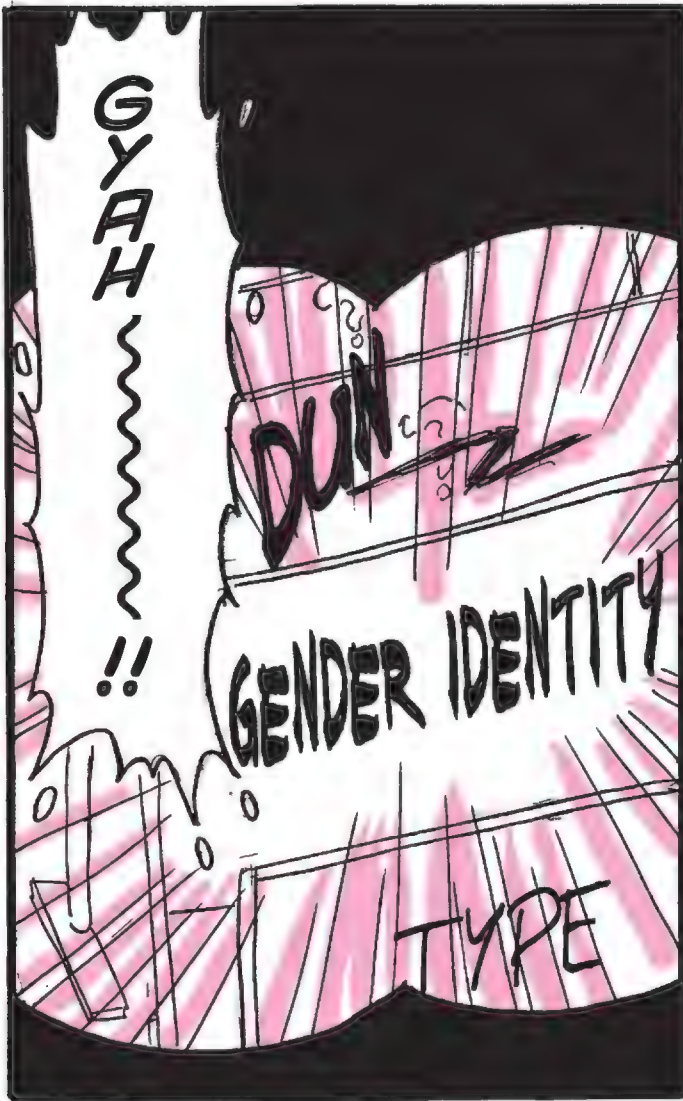
HAZY...

FAITH IN OTHER PEOPLE

When I
focused
in on each
of the
hurdles...

LET'S
TAKE A
LOOK...







FIRST,
TYPE.

.....
CALM
DOWN.
LET'S JUST
THINK THEM
THROUGH,
ONE BY
ONE!

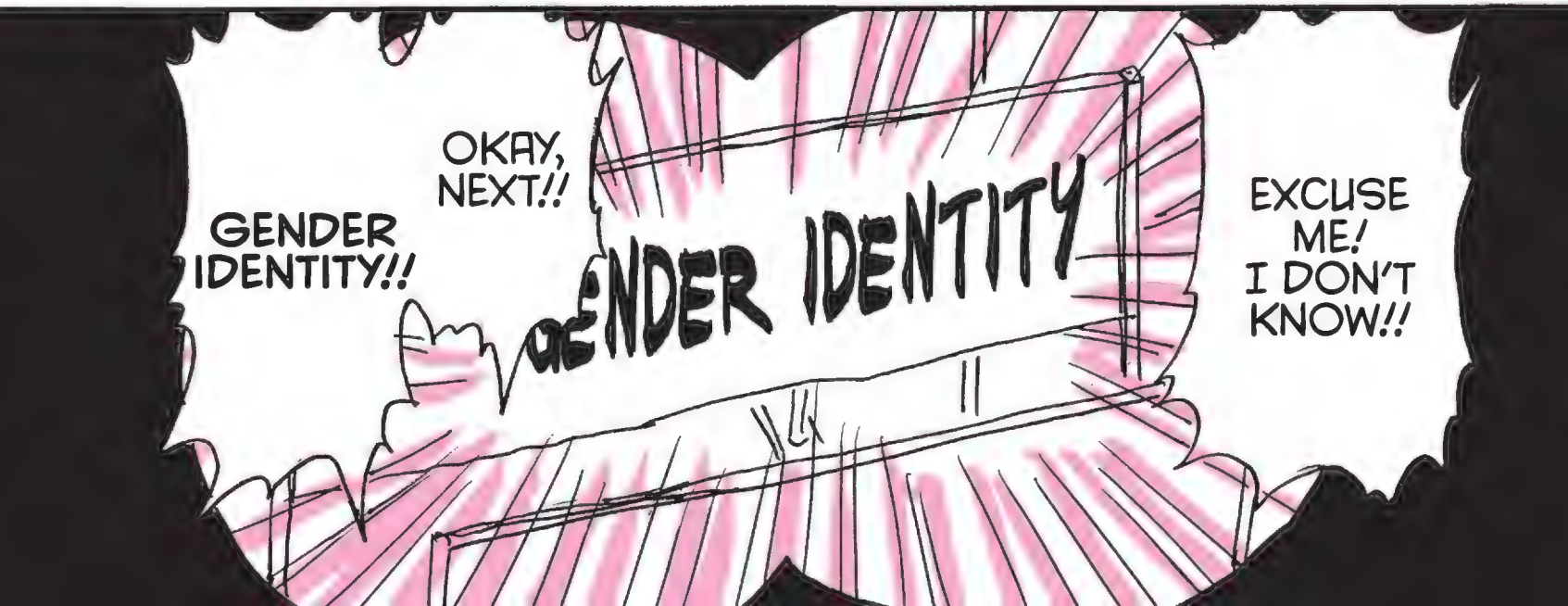


WAIT!
MAYBE I
CAN USE THE
PROCESS OF
ELIMINATION.

BUT...

I DON'T
HAVE ONE!
OR AT
LEAST,
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT IT IS,
EXACTLY!!!

LIKE,
"SOMEONE
WHO
DOESN'T
COMMIT
CRIMES"....?



GENDER
IDENTITY!!

OKAY,
NEXT!!

GENDER IDENTITY

EXCUSE
ME!
I DON'T
KNOW!!

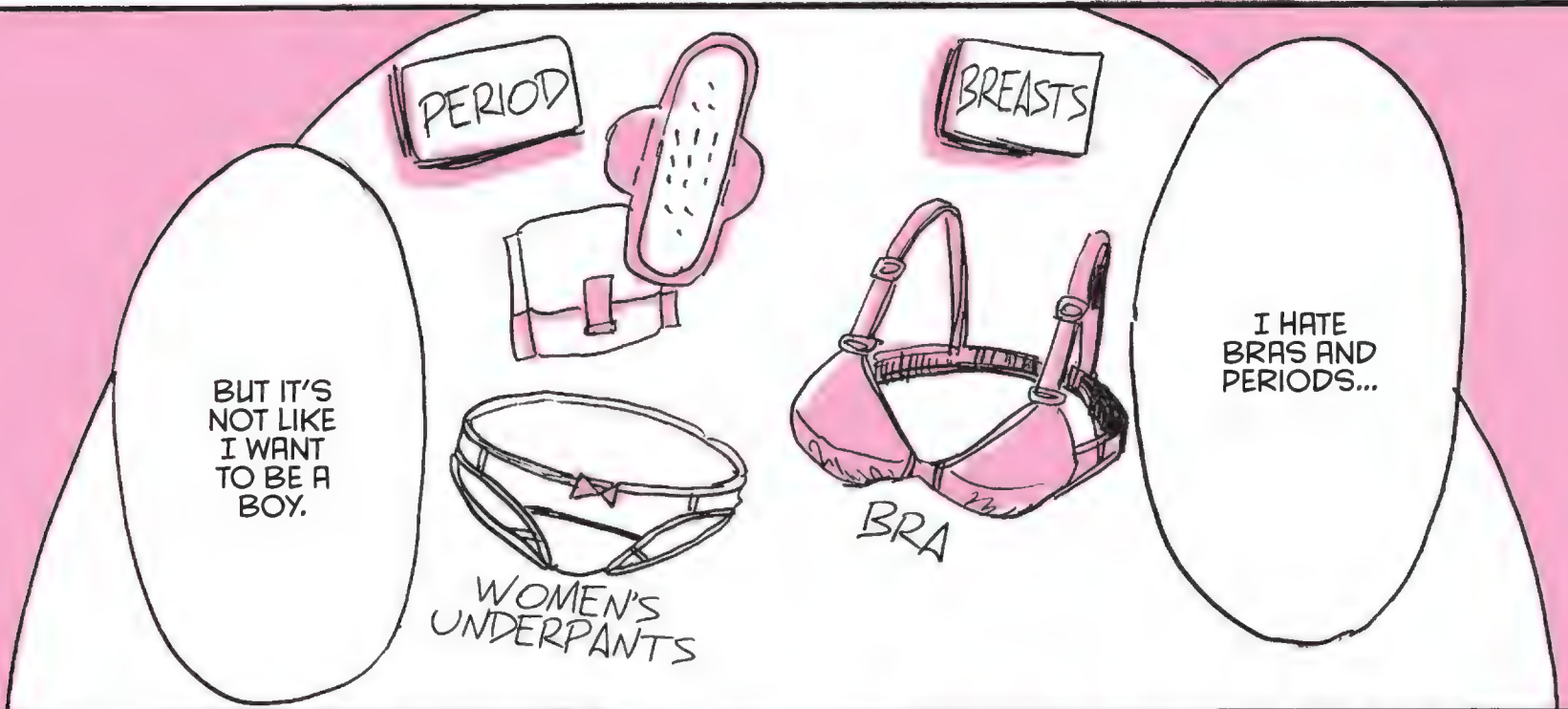


IT MAKES
ME HAPPY
WHEN
SOMEONE
CALLS ME
"SIR."

AND I
WEAR
MEN'S
UNDER-
PANTS.

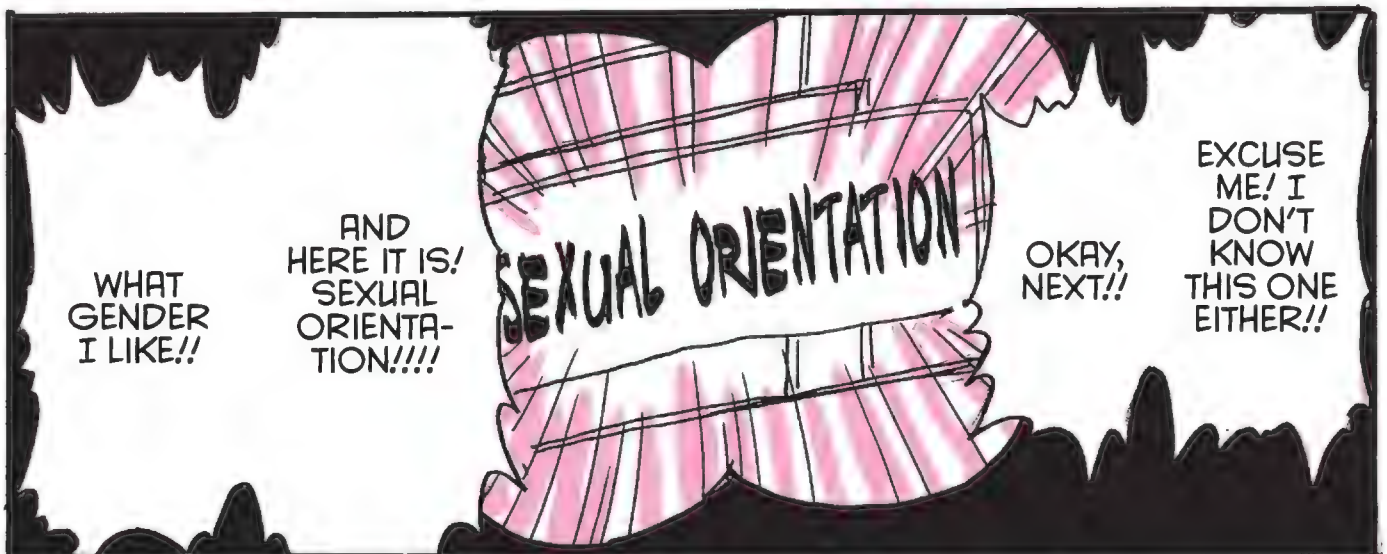
BUT I
DON'T LIKE
BEING
VIEWED AS A
WOMAN.

HMM...
WELL,
I FEEL
LIKE
I'M A
WOMAN.



BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE
I WANT
TO BE A
BOY.

I HATE
BRAS AND
PERIODS...



WHAT
GENDER
I LIKE!!

AND
HERE IT IS!
SEXUAL
ORIENTA-
TION!!!!

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

OKAY,
NEXT!!

EXCUSE
ME! I
DON'T
KNOW
THIS ONE
EITHER!!

Wait.
I wrote a book
about going
to a lesbian
escort service.
People probably
think I like
women.



KNOW!
THIS!
EITHER
!!!!

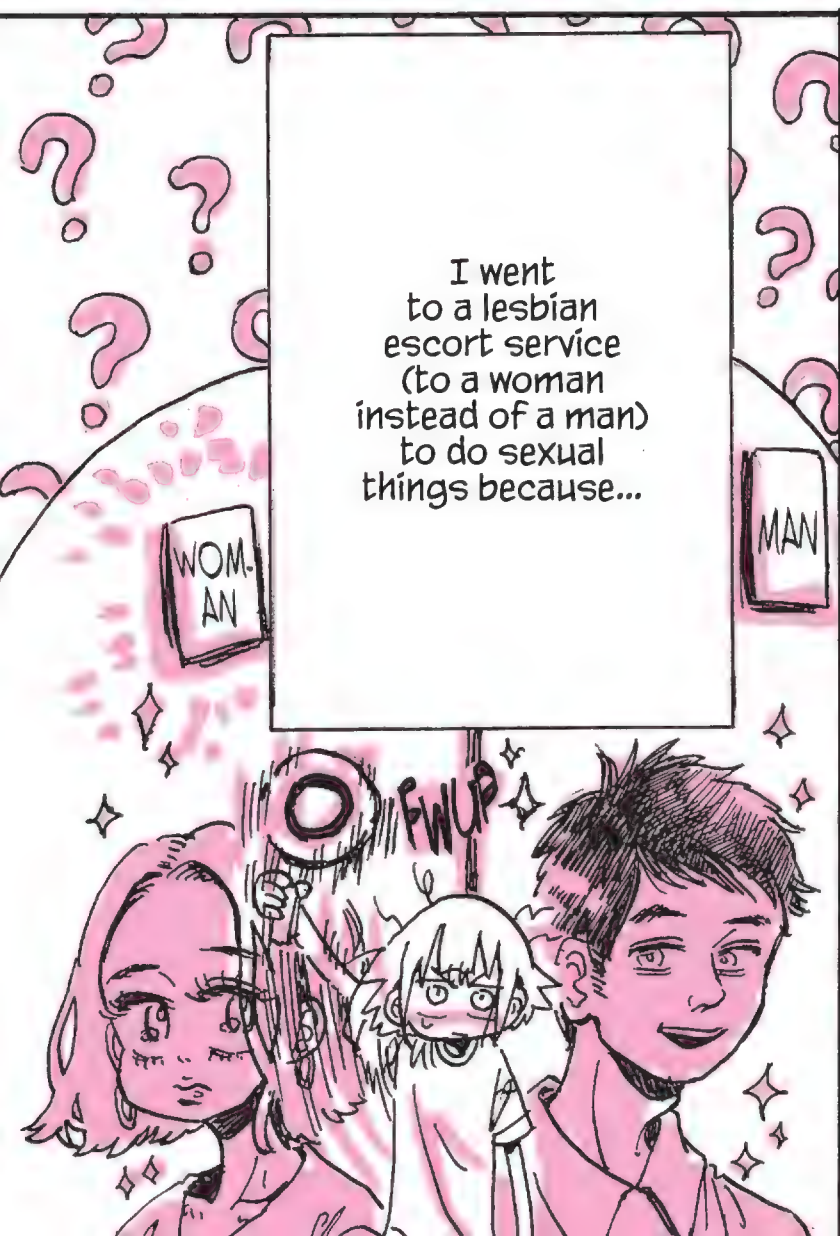
I!
DON'T!



I went
to a lesbian
escort service
(to a woman
instead of a man)
to do sexual
things because...

WOM-
AN

MAN



But I really
don't know.
Maybe I'll fall
for someone at
some point,
and that person
will just happen
to be a man.

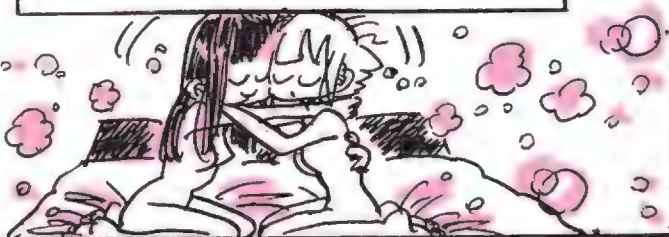
COINCIDENTALLY

Fall
in

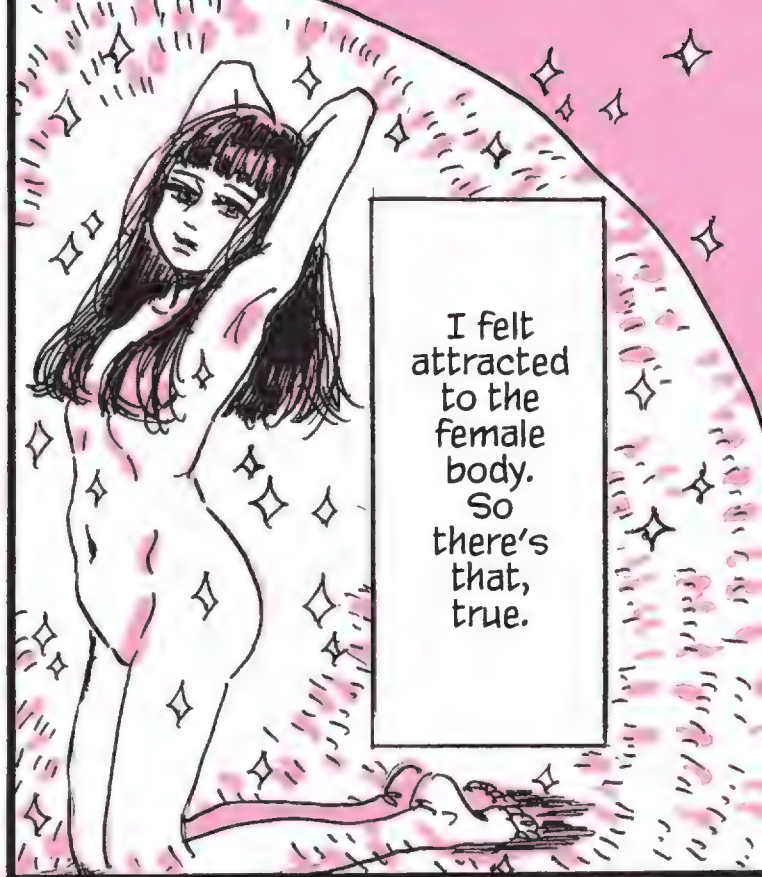
love...



But another
big reason was
because women
didn't feel scary.
I felt safe.



I felt
attracted to the
female
body.
So
there's
that,
true.



On top of that,
human beings,
no matter their
gender...

The system is
set up so that
you can't survive
unless you get
nutrition
directly from a
woman in utero and
for a while after
being born.

(※Although I can't
generalize.)

ALTERNATIVE: DEATH!!

BREASTFED
BY A WOMAN.
(XOR
BOTTLE-FED.)

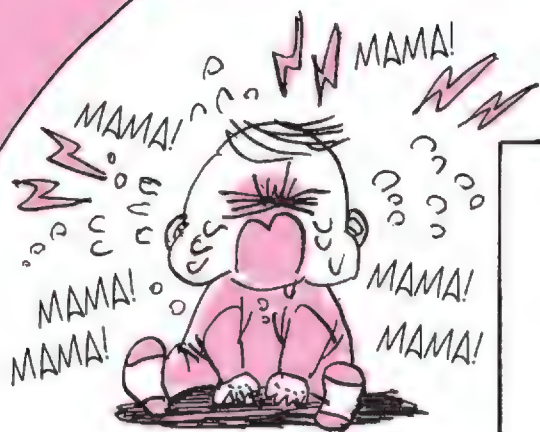


BORN
FROM A
WOMAN.



are
(generally)
born from
a woman
(for now
anyway).





I think
human beings
are creatures that
fundamentally seek
out women.

(In other words,
we extract from
women).

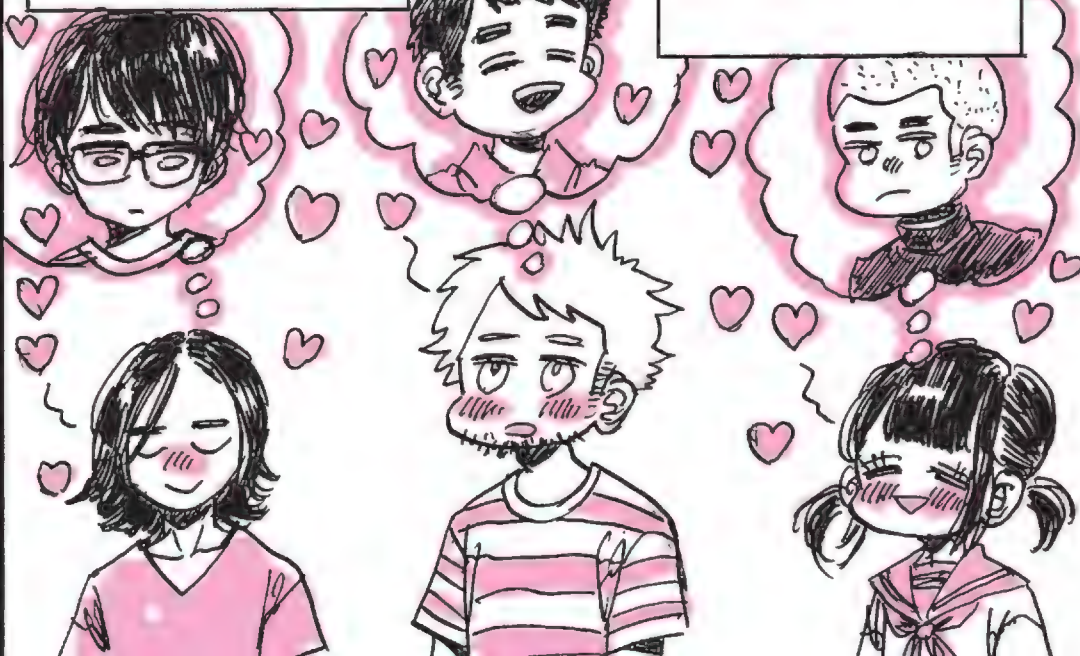


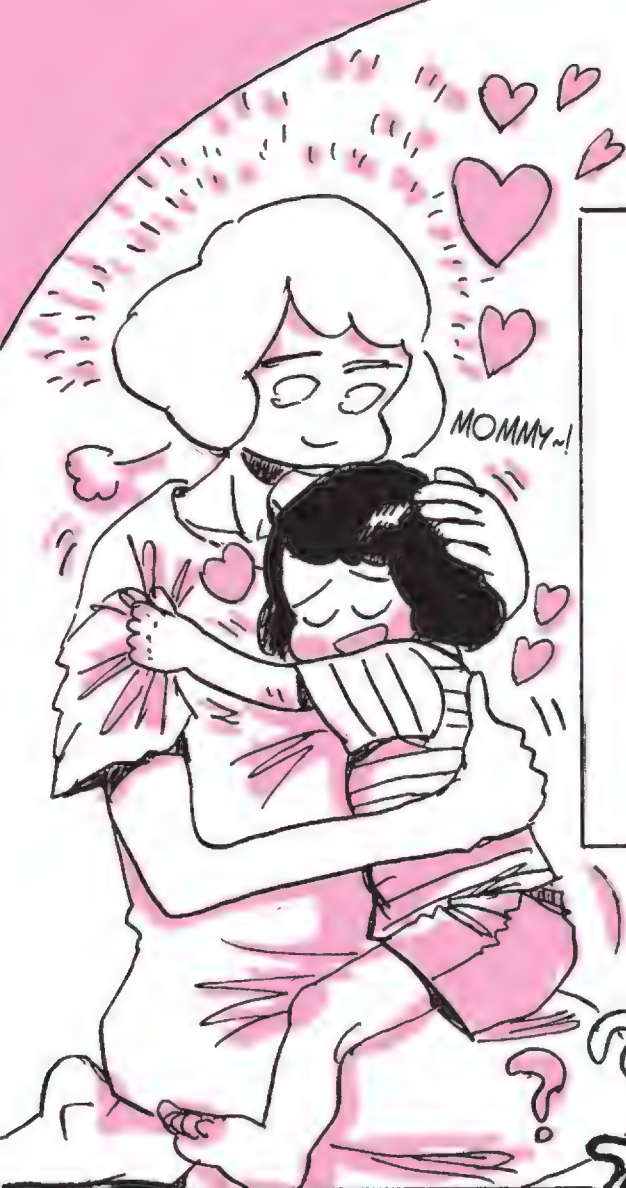
When I
thought
about
this...

*Cishet: Someone
who is both cisgender
(gender identity
matches the one
assigned at birth) and
heterosexual (attracted
to the opposite gender).

have the
experience
of seeking
out men.

I think
only some
people,
like cishet*
women,
gay men,
and other
people who
fall for
men...





MOMMY~!

How on earth
do you go from
being a creature
that seeks out
(extracts from)
women...



MAMA!

MAMA!

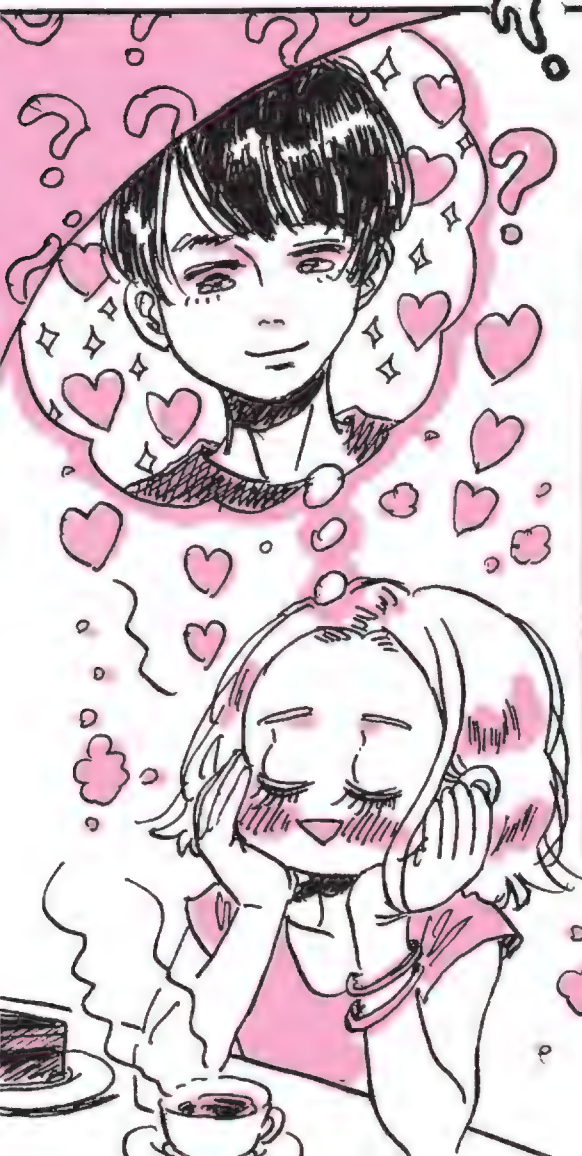
MAMA!

MAMA!!!

MAMA!

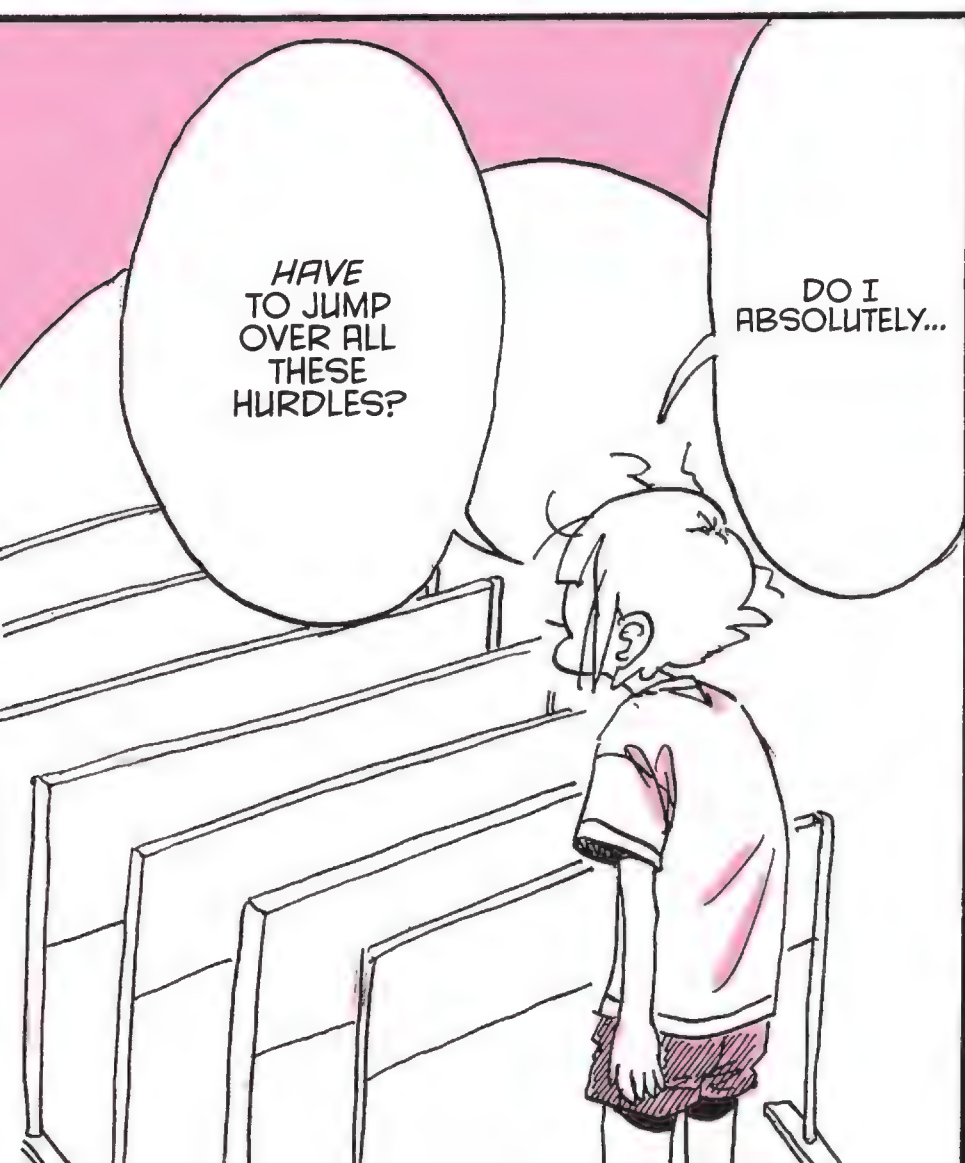
WAAA

UGH!

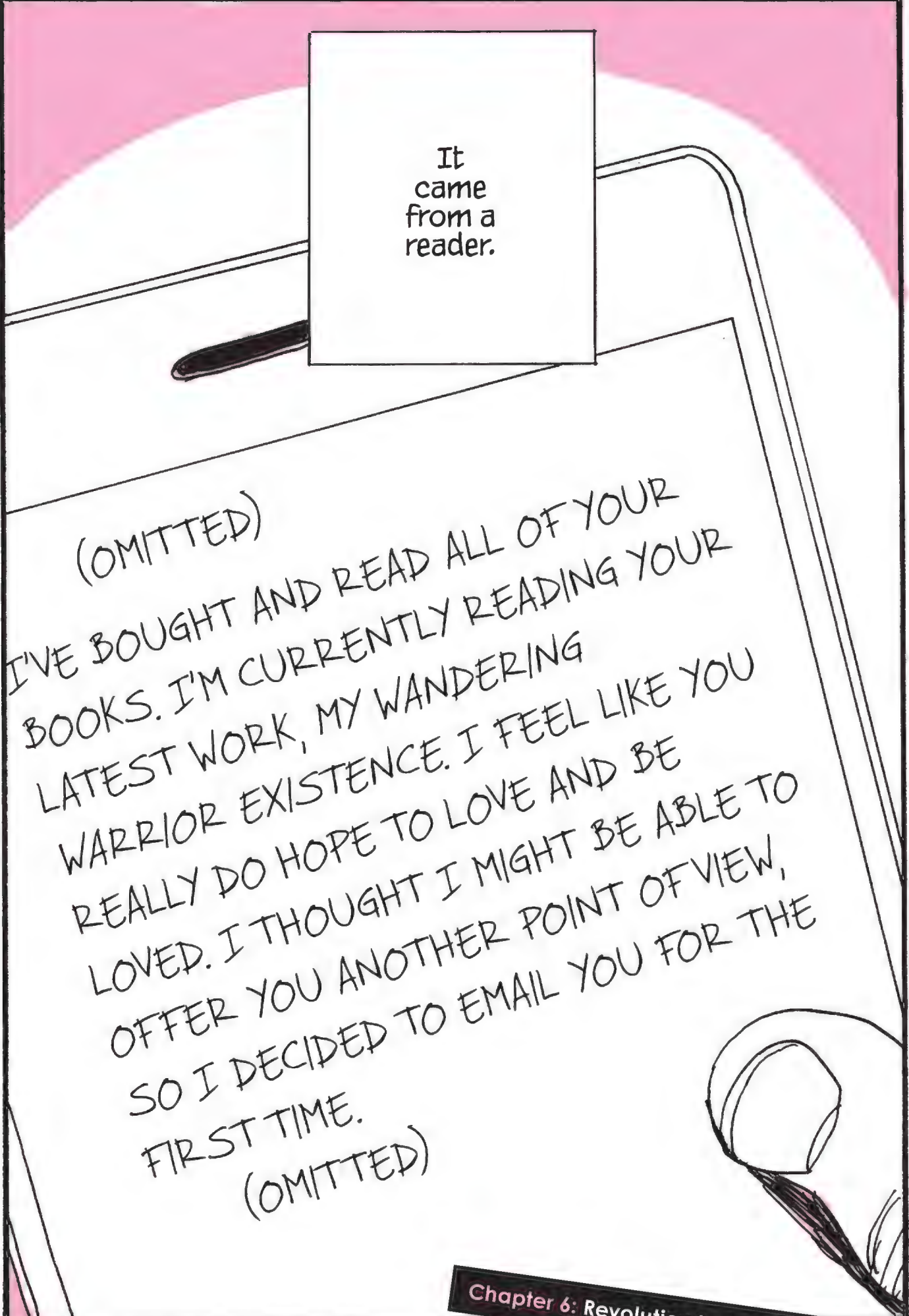


to seeking
out men?
I just
didn't
get it.







A hand-drawn illustration of a notepad with a pen and a speech bubble. The notepad is tilted, and a pen lies horizontally across its top. A speech bubble originates from the pen, containing the text 'It came from a reader.' The background features a pink and white circular pattern.

It
came
from a
reader.

(OMITTED)

I'VE BOUGHT AND READ ALL OF YOUR
BOOKS. I'M CURRENTLY READING YOUR
LATEST WORK, MY WANDERING
WARRIOR EXISTENCE. I FEEL LIKE YOU
REALLY DO HOPE TO LOVE AND BE
LOVED. I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO
OFFER YOU ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW,
SO I DECIDED TO EMAIL YOU FOR THE
FIRST TIME.
(OMITTED)

Chapter 6: Revolution by Reader Email



They also suggested two books, but I haven't read them, so I won't touch on those.



(OMITTED)
"LOVE CAN START A NUMBER OF WAYS. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THOSE NOW."

MM-
HMM...



Instead, I'll just quote what they said about the path from love's beginning to building a relationship.

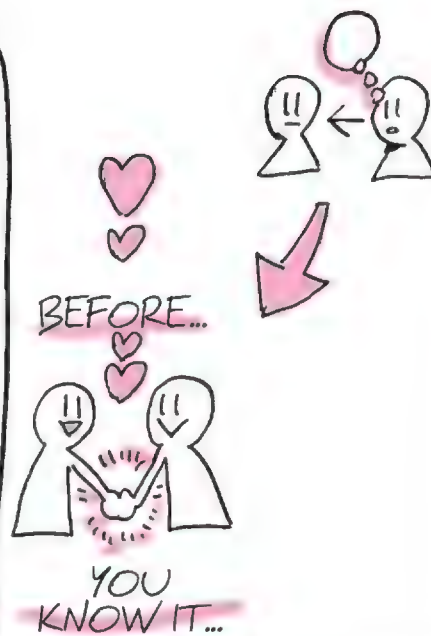
(※I GOT PERMISSION TO QUOTE THEM. THANK YOU SO MUCH.)

THANK YOU...

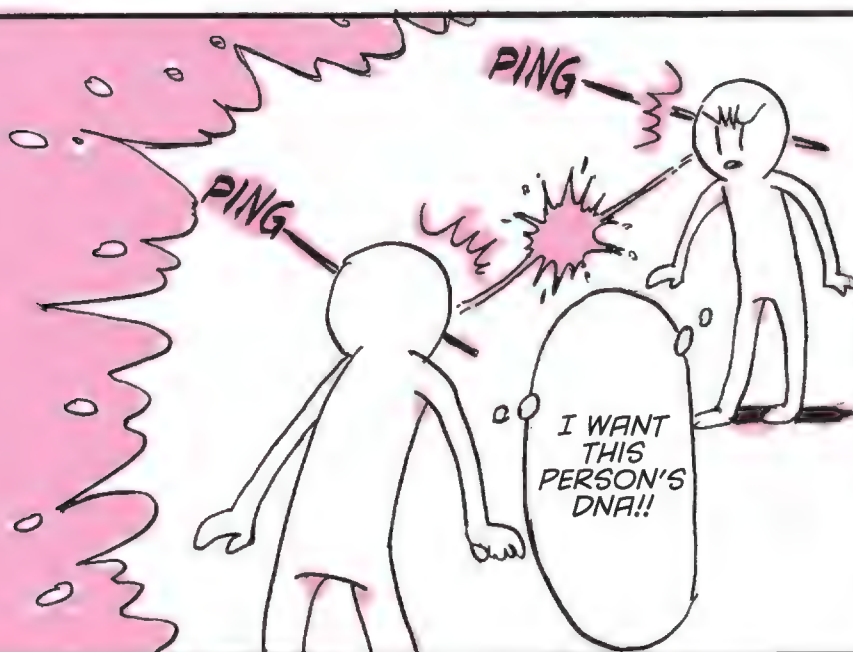
BOW

VERY MUCH.

INSTEAD, BOTH PEOPLE
FEEL LIKE THEY WANT
TO TALK MORE WITH
THE OTHER PERSON,
TO SHARE A BOND OF
SOME KIND. IT'S NOT
TILL LATER THAT THEY
REALIZE THEIR MEETING
WAS FATE. THIS
HAPPENS A LOT
IN REALITY.

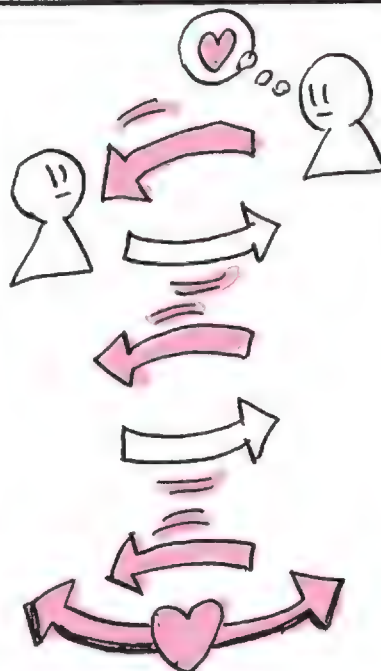


① A FATEFUL
ENCOUNTER
DOESN'T
ALWAYS
START WITH
ROMANTIC
FEELINGS.



② MUTUAL LOVE AT
FIRST SIGHT IS WHEN
BOTH PEOPLE'S GENES
INSTINCTIVELY SEEK
EACH OTHER OUT TO
PRODUCE SUPERIOR
OFFSPRING.
(OMITTED)

IN OTHER
WORDS, ONE
PERSON
FALLING FOR
ANOTHER
BECOMES AN
EMOTIONAL
TRIGGER.



③ HOWEVER,
MOST OF THE WORLD'S
ROMANCES OCCUR
WHEN ONE PERSON
FALLS FOR ANOTHER.
SPENDING TIME
TOGETHER STIRS
THE OTHER PERSON'S
EMOTIONS, AND
THE FEELINGS
BECOME MUTUAL.

YOU FELT
GUILTY ABOUT
NOT BEING
ABLE TO
RETURN HER
FEELINGS.
BUT IN THE
BEGINNING,
THAT'S OKAY.



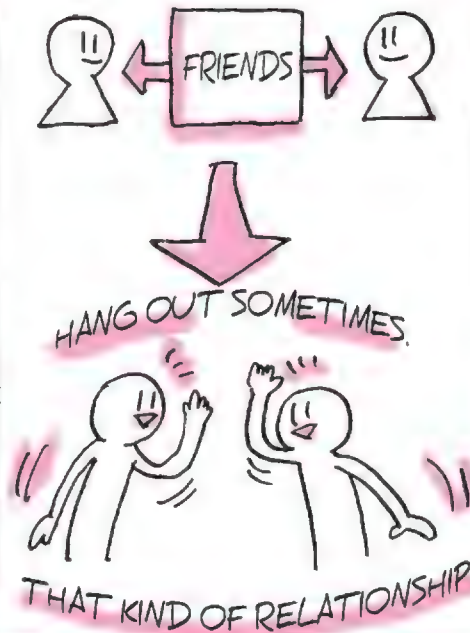
THE FEELINGS
DON'T JUST
SUDDENLY
BECOME MUTUAL.
FOR EXAMPLE,
THE WOMAN WHO
FELL FOR YOU
IN MY SOLO
EXCHANGE
DIARY...

a woman
developed
actual
feelings
for me.
(Seriously.
For real.)



※ To clarify
for those of
you who haven't
read *My Solo
Exchange Diary*,
at the end of the
book...

AND BUILD A
RELATIONSHIP.
YOU SEE THE
OTHER PERSON
FROM TIME TO TIME
AND EVENTUALLY,
A ROMANCE MAY
DEVELOP.



RATHER THAN
SUDDENLY
BEING ALL,
"I LOVE YOU,"
AND GOING TO
A HOTEL, YOU
SPEND TIME
TOGETHER AS
FRIENDS...

We decided
to go to a
love hotel out
of the blue.
(We didn't
end up going,
though.)

HER

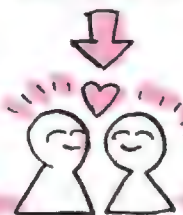
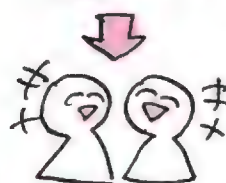
I'M CURRENTLY FREE,
SO GOING TO A HOTEL OR
SOMETHING IS TOTALLY FINE,
BUT I GUESS YOU'D
PROBABLY HATE THAT?

THAT'S
TOTALLY FINE.!!!!

※ Again,
for
those
who
haven't
read
it...

AND THE SAME
CAN HAPPEN
WITH ROMANTIC
PARTNERS. OVER
TIME, YOU BEGIN
TO TREASURE
THEIR PRESENCE
IN YOUR LIFE.

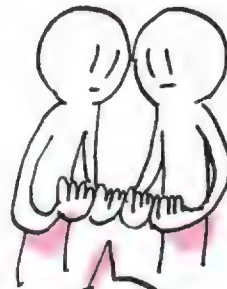
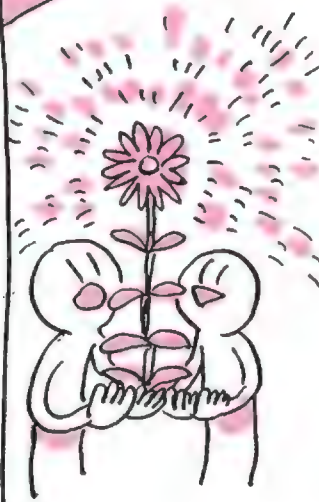
GRADUALLY...



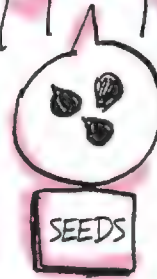
BECOME
IMPORTANT!

YOUR
FRIENDS AND
FAMILY BECOME
IMPORTANT TO
YOU AFTER
SPENDING A
LONG TIME
WITH THEM...

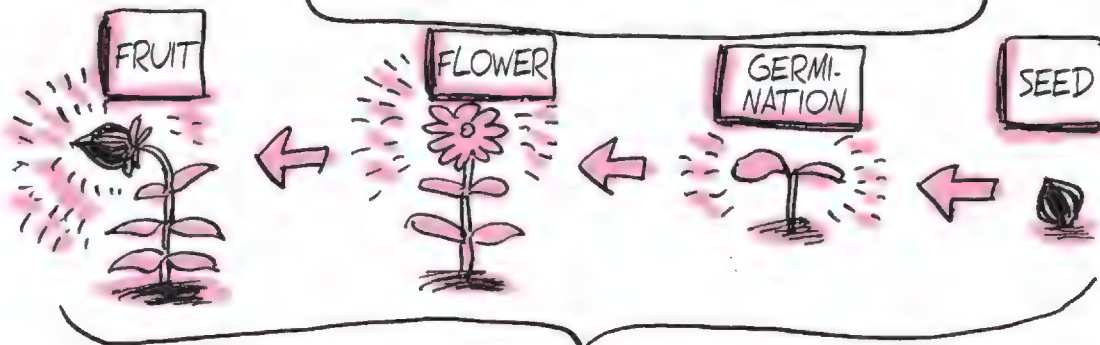
A SEED
GERMINATES
AS YOUR
CONNECTION
GROWS,
A FLOWER
BLOSSOMS...
AND AT LAST,
BEARS FRUIT.



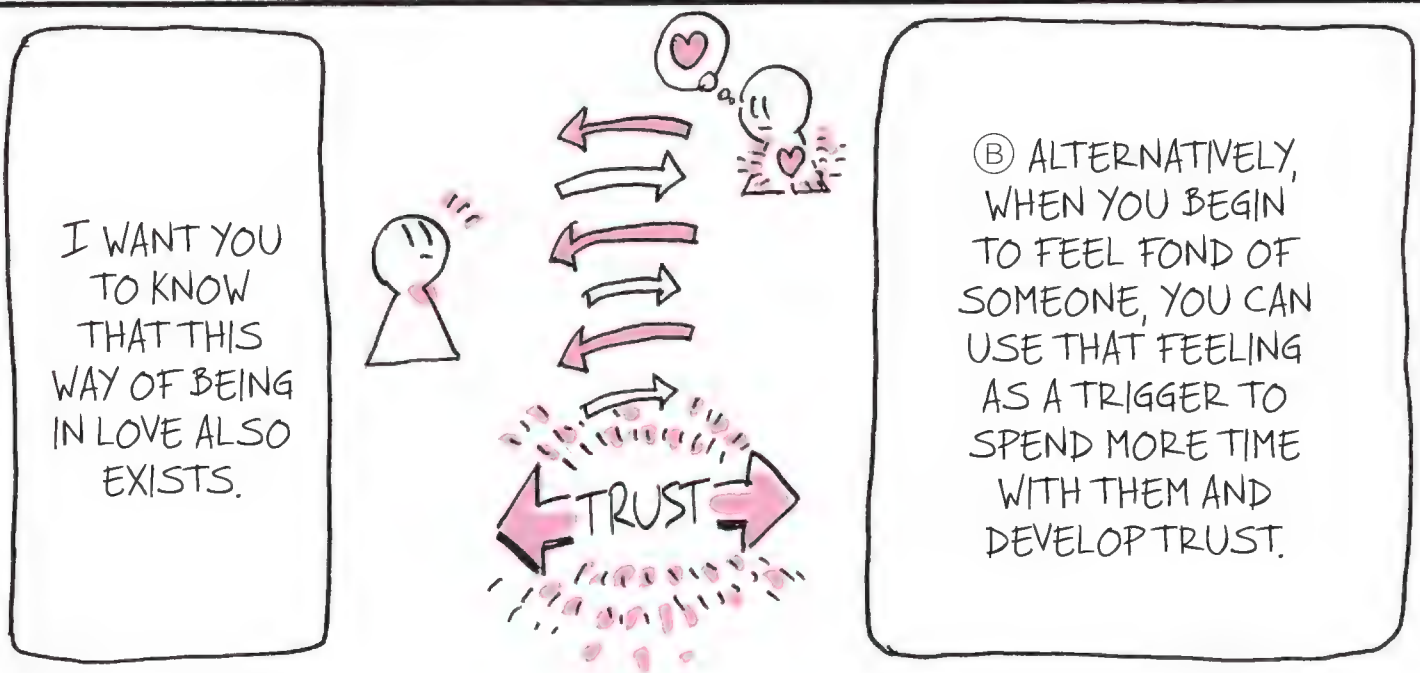
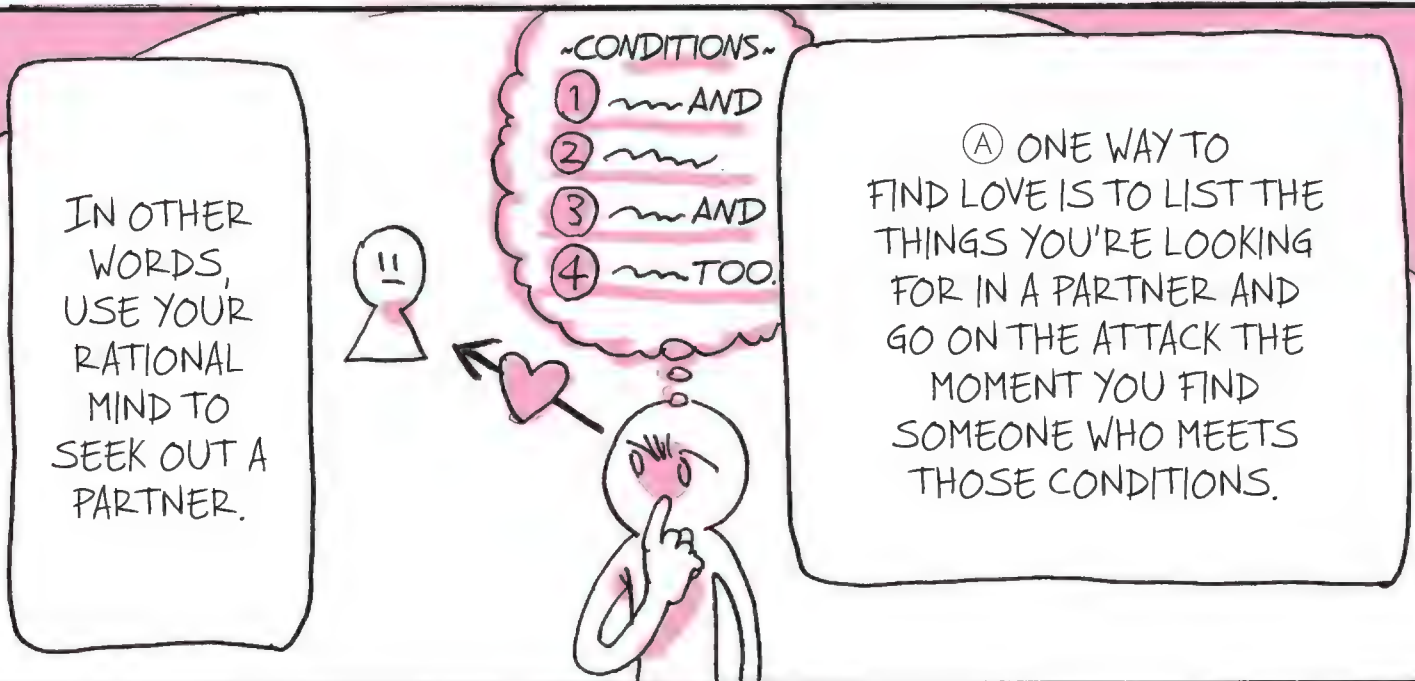
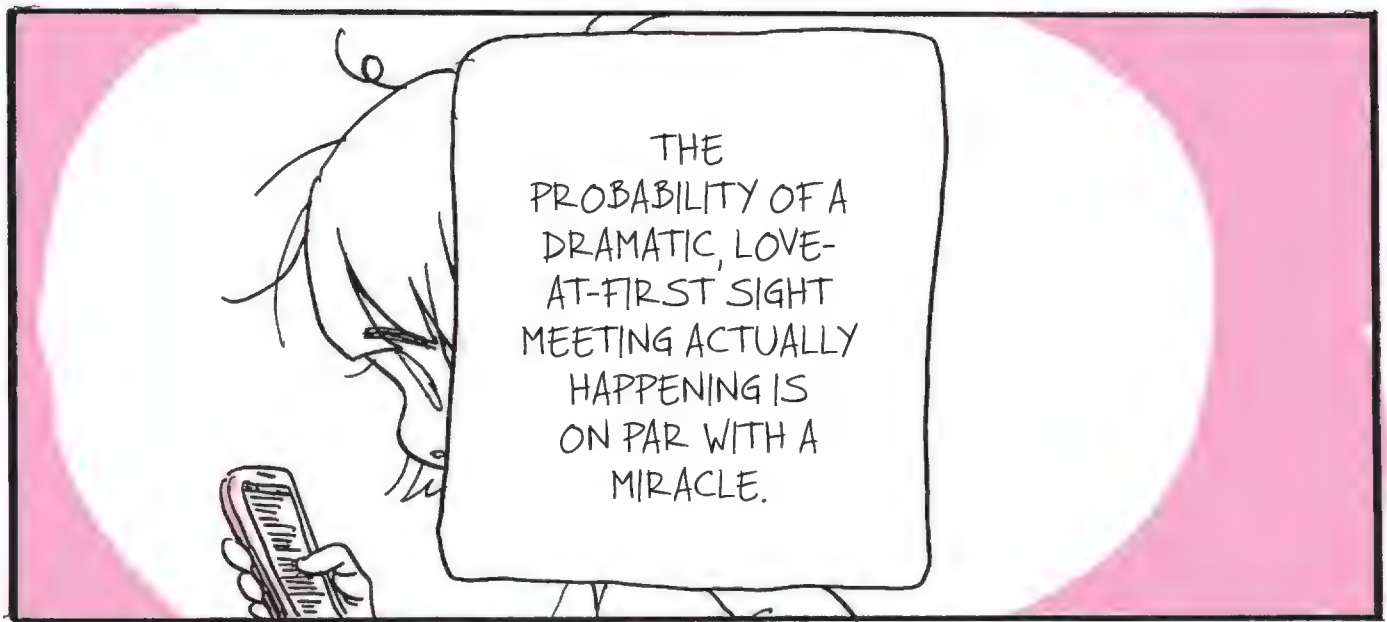
PLEASE
IMAGINE
ROMANTIC
FEELINGS AS
SEEDS.



IT COULD TAKE
SIX MONTHS TO
A YEAR BEFORE
BEARING FRUIT,
THOUGH, SO
PLEASE KEEP
THAT IN MIND.



6 MONTHS - 1 YEAR

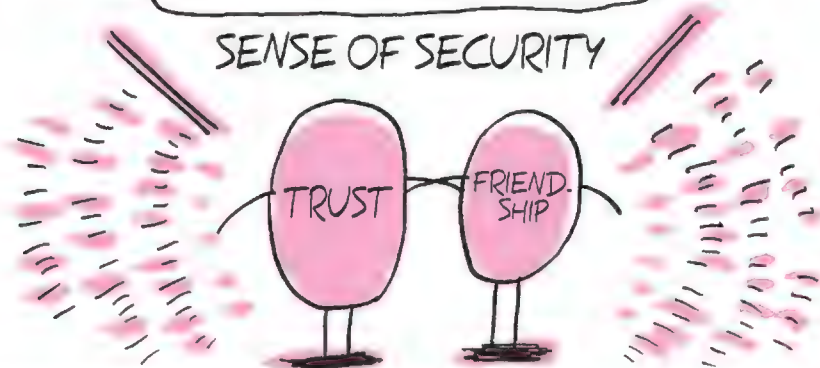


BUT IN THE
ABSENCE OF THAT
INTENSITY, YOU WILL
FIND SECURITY
AND TRUST IN THE
FRIENDSHIP.

ROMANTIC
FEELINGS
SETTLE
DOWN AFTER
FOUR OR FIVE
YEARS...

SENSE OF SECURITY

4 TO 5 YEARS LATER.



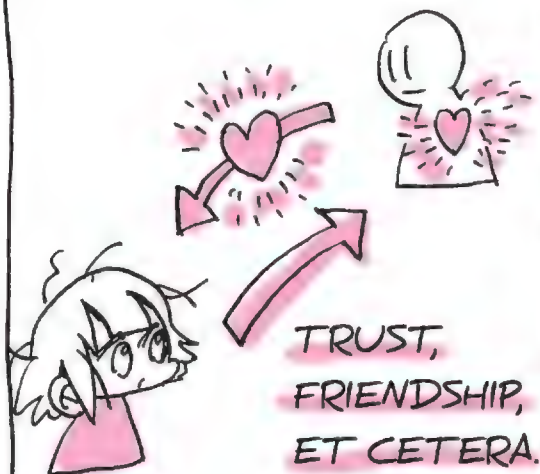
AND YOU
DECIDE TO
BUILD A
RELATIONSHIP,
THINGS MIGHT
TURN OUT
DIFFERENTLY.

BUT IF
SOMEONE
ELSE
LIKE THAT
APPEARS...

IF YOU'RE
NO LONGER IN
CONTACT WITH
THE WOMAN WHO
DEVELOPED
FEELINGS
FOR YOU,
THERE'S NO
CHANGING
THAT.



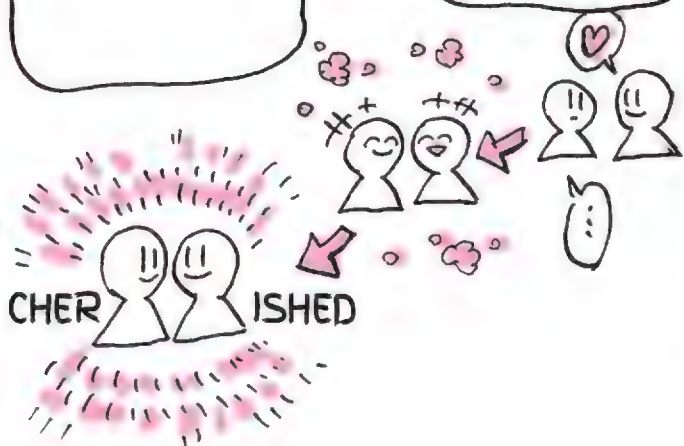
WHEN
SOMEONE COMES
TO YOU WITH
ROMANTIC LOVE,
YOU CAN RETURN
IT WITH TRUST AND
FRIENDSHIP, AND
SLOWLY BUILD A
RELATIONSHIP.



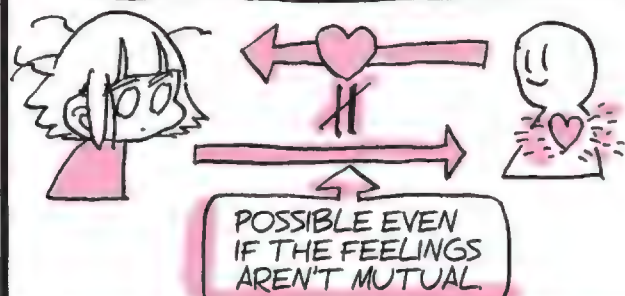
FRIENDSHIP
AND TRUST
ARE GOOD,
TOO.

AND
BEFORE
YOU KNOW
IT, THE DAY
WILL COME
WHEN YOU
REALIZE
YOU TRULY
CHERISH
THEM.

WITH THIS
KIND OF
LOVE, YOU
CAN ENJOY
SPENDING
TIME WITH
SOMEONE...

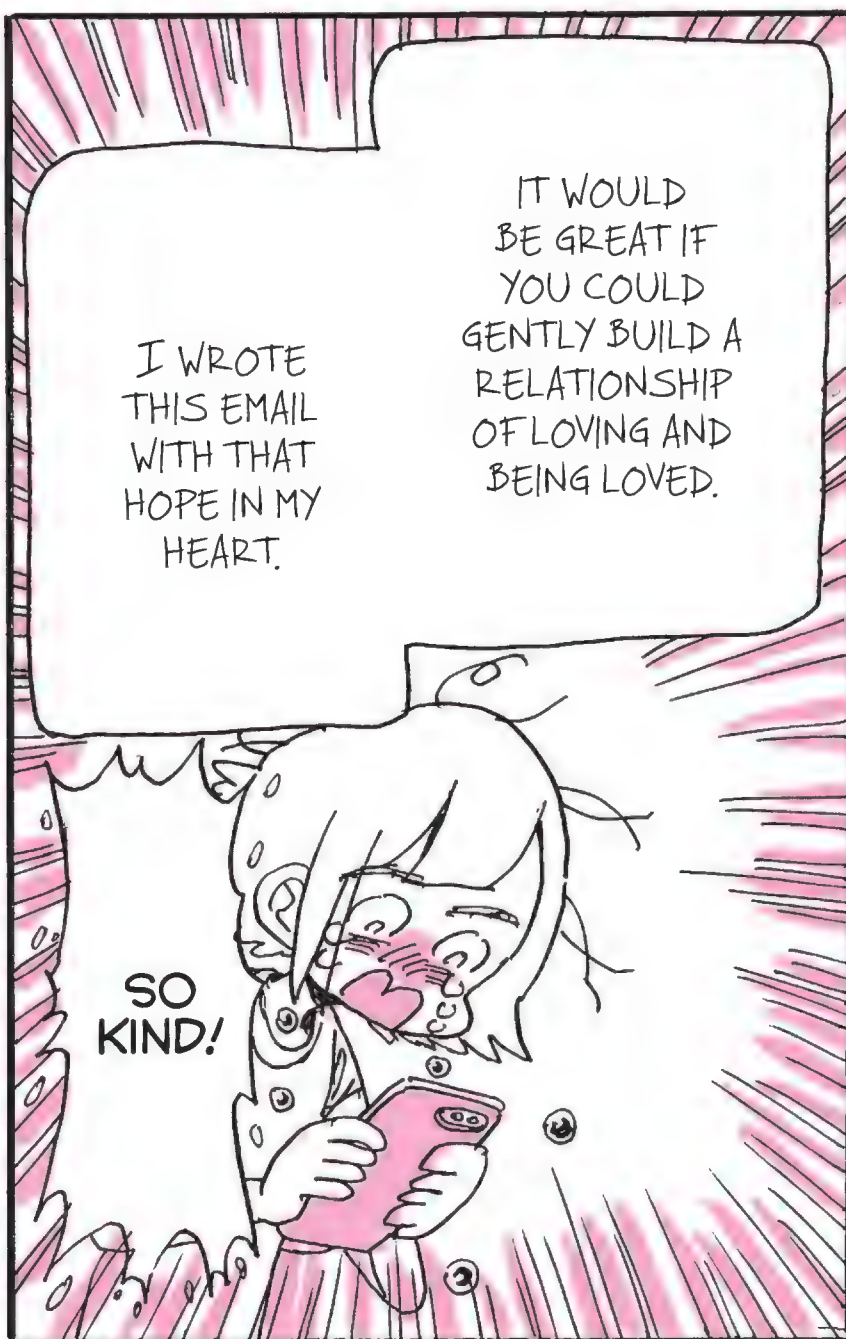


IT ISN'T RIGHT
TO RECEIVE THEIR
CARE AND AFFECTION,
AND GIVE THEM
NOTHING IN RETURN.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T
RETURN THEIR
FEELINGS, YOU CAN
STILL CONNECT
WITH THEM.





IT'S BEEN A
FEW YEARS,
SO IT MIGHT BE
DIFFICULT TO
START OVER
WITH THE WOMAN
IN YOUR BOOK.



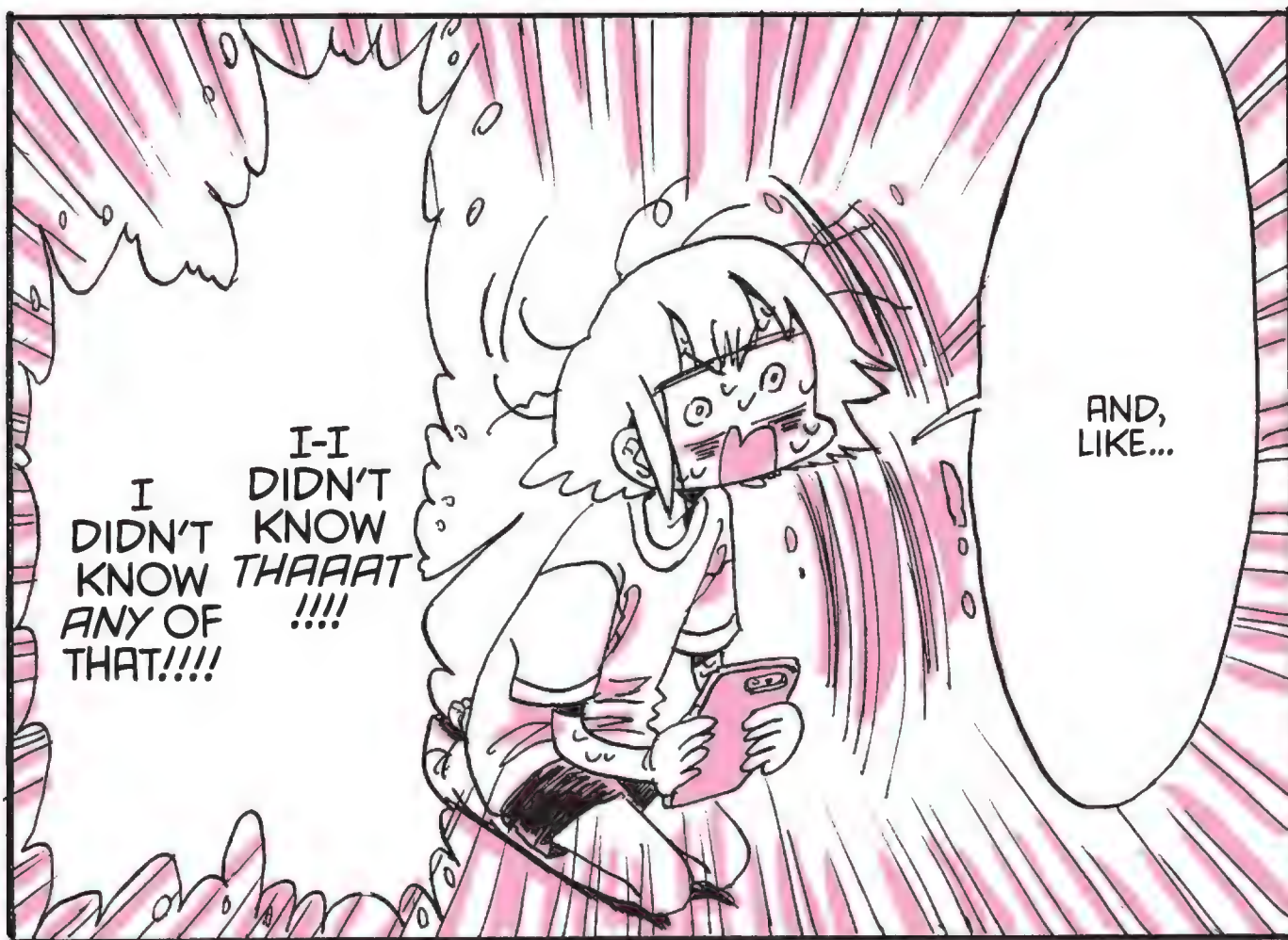
I WROTE
THIS EMAIL
WITH THAT
HOPE IN MY
HEART.

IT WOULD
BE GREAT IF
YOU COULD
GENTLY BUILD A
RELATIONSHIP
OF LOVING AND
BEING LOVED.

SO
KIND!



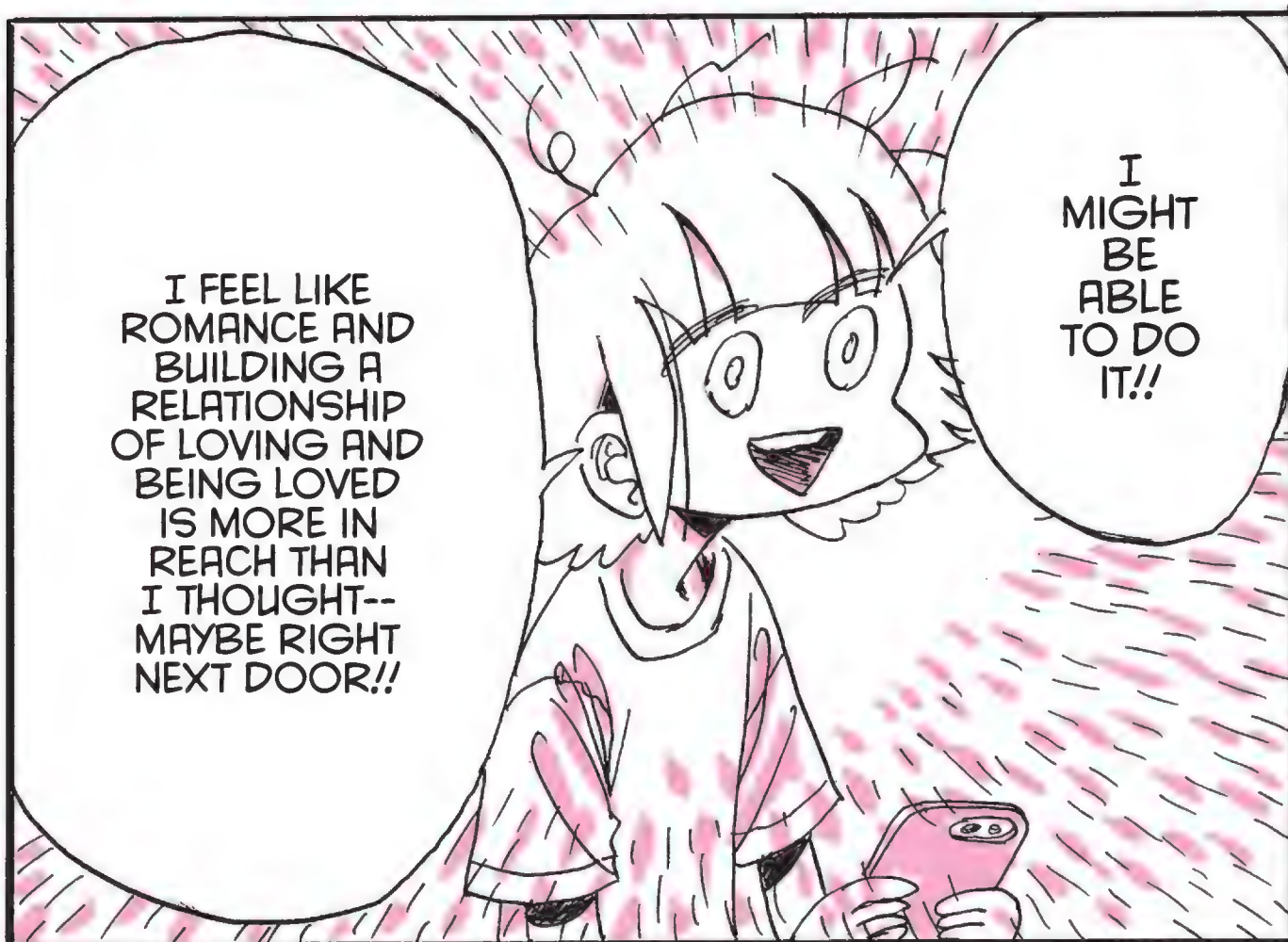
BUT IF
ANOTHER
PERSON CAME
TO YOU WITH
THAT THOSE
SPECIAL
FEELINGS...



I
DIDN'T
KNOW
ANY OF
THAT!!!!

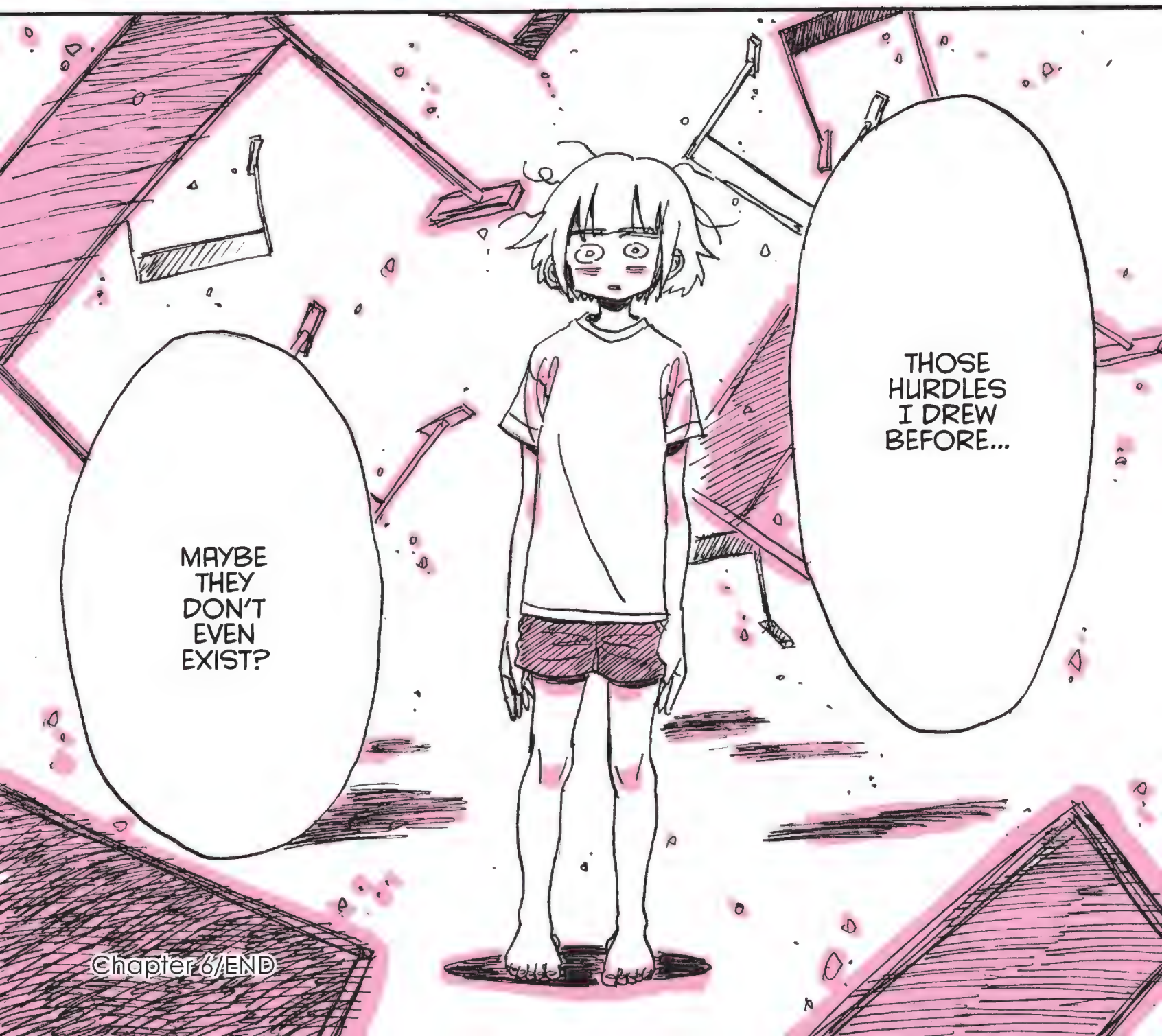
I-I
DIDN'T
KNOW
THAAAT
!!!!

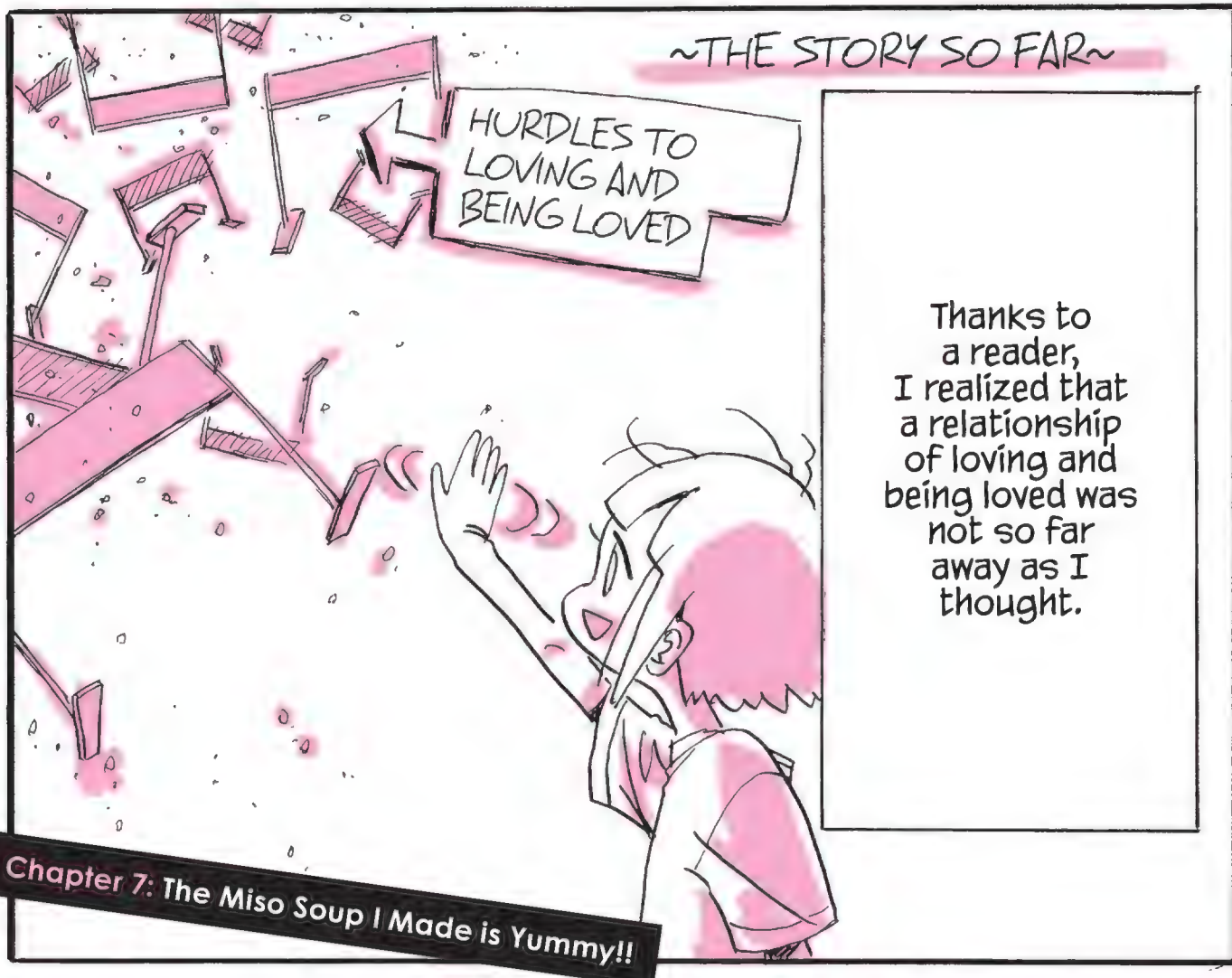
AND,
LIKE...

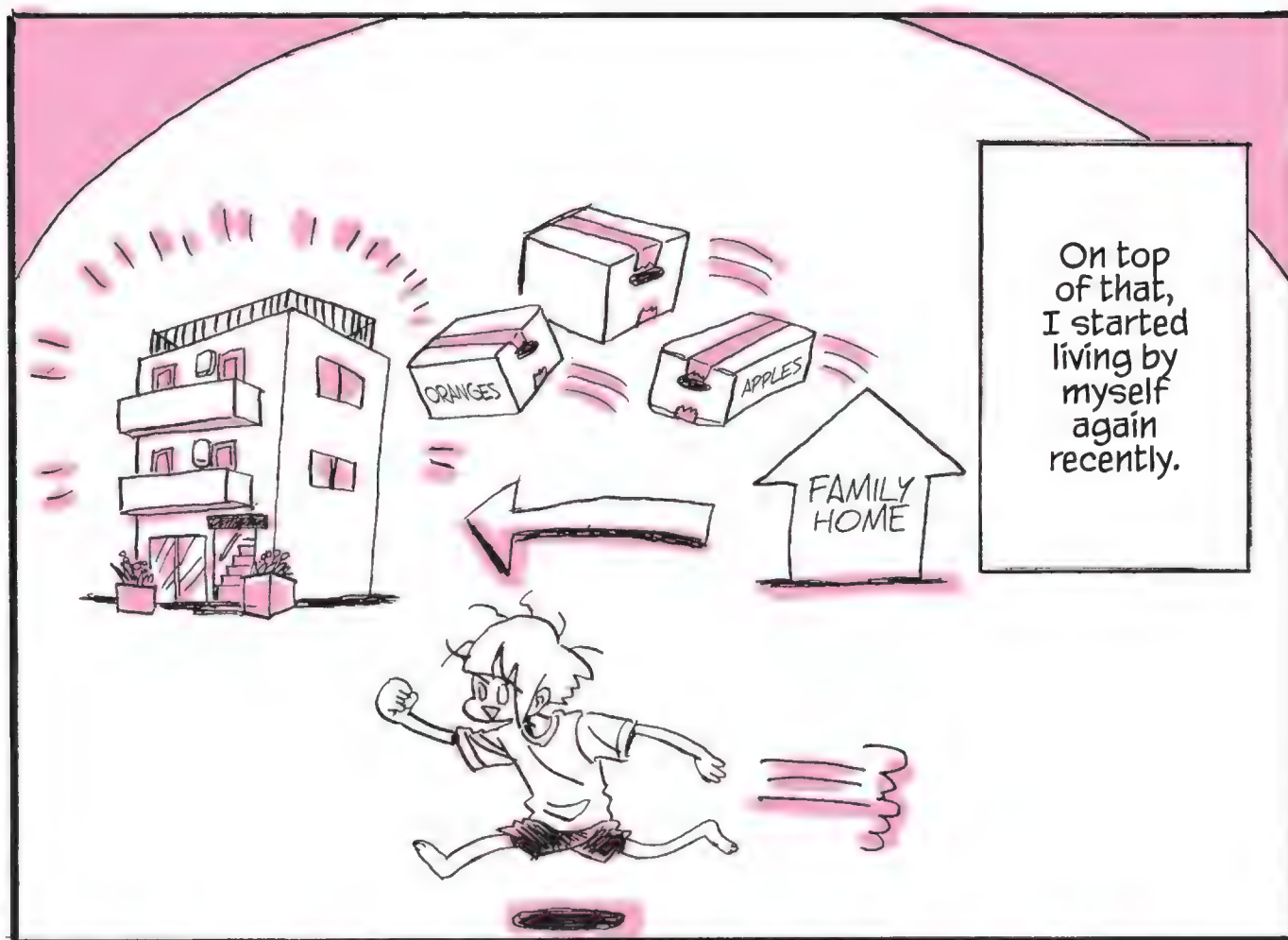


I FEEL LIKE
ROMANCE AND
BUILDING A
RELATIONSHIP
OF LOVING AND
BEING LOVED
IS MORE IN
REACH THAN
I THOUGHT--
MAYBE RIGHT
NEXT DOOR!!

I
MIGHT
BE
ABLE
TO DO
IT!!







On top of that, I started living by myself again recently.

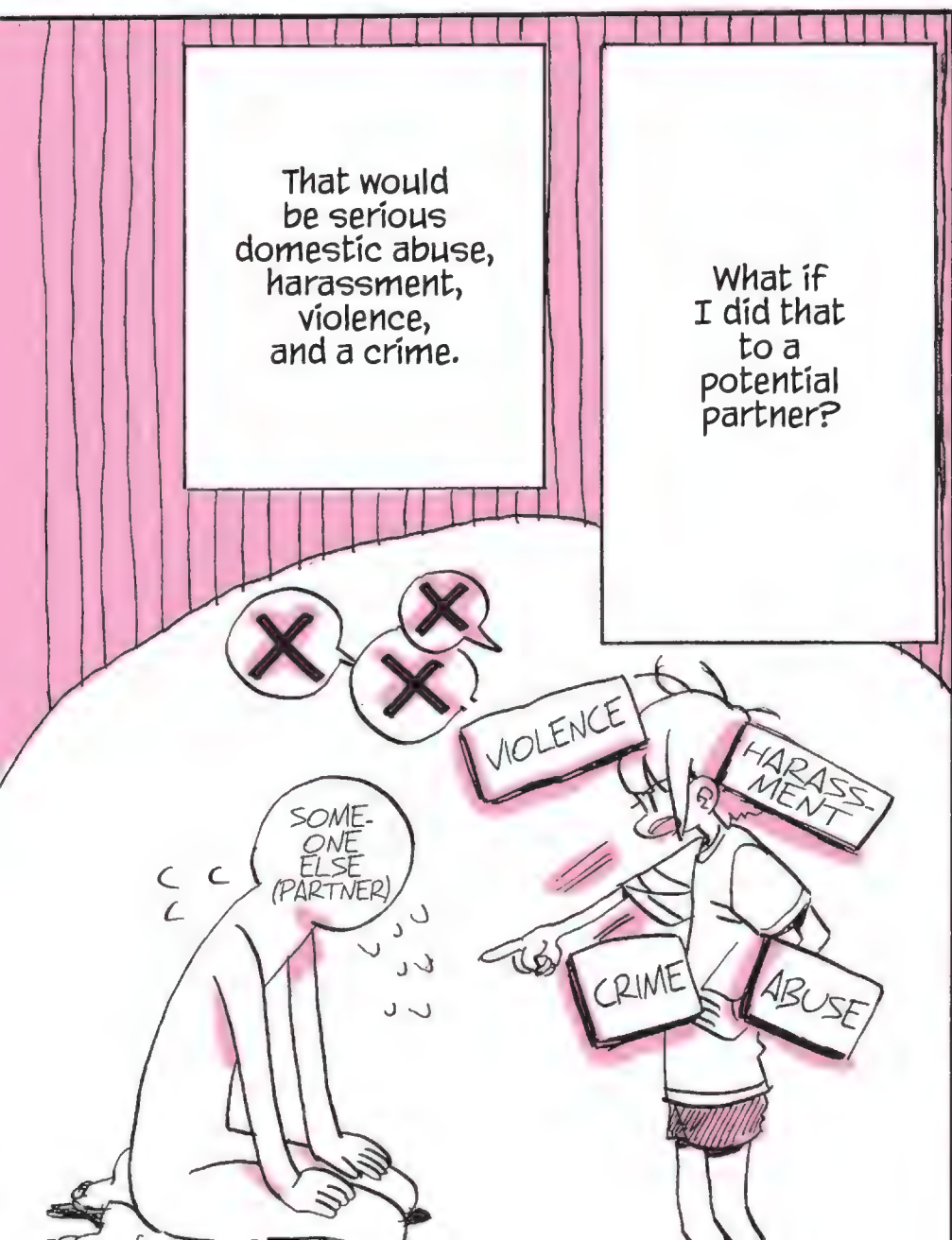


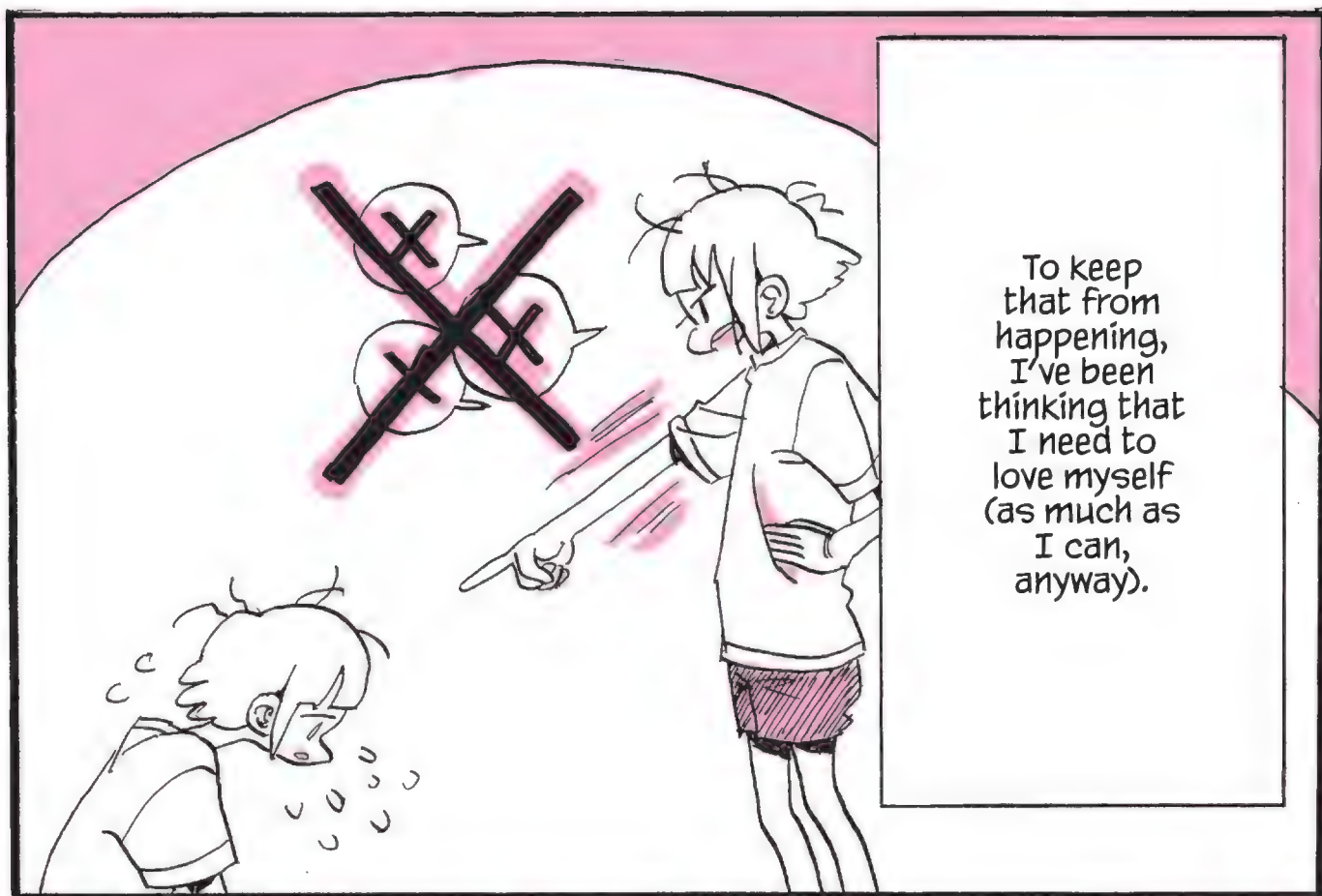
AND IT ONLY HAS THE STUFF I LIKE IN IT!! MARRY ME!!

THE MISO SOUP I MADE IS YUMMYYY!!

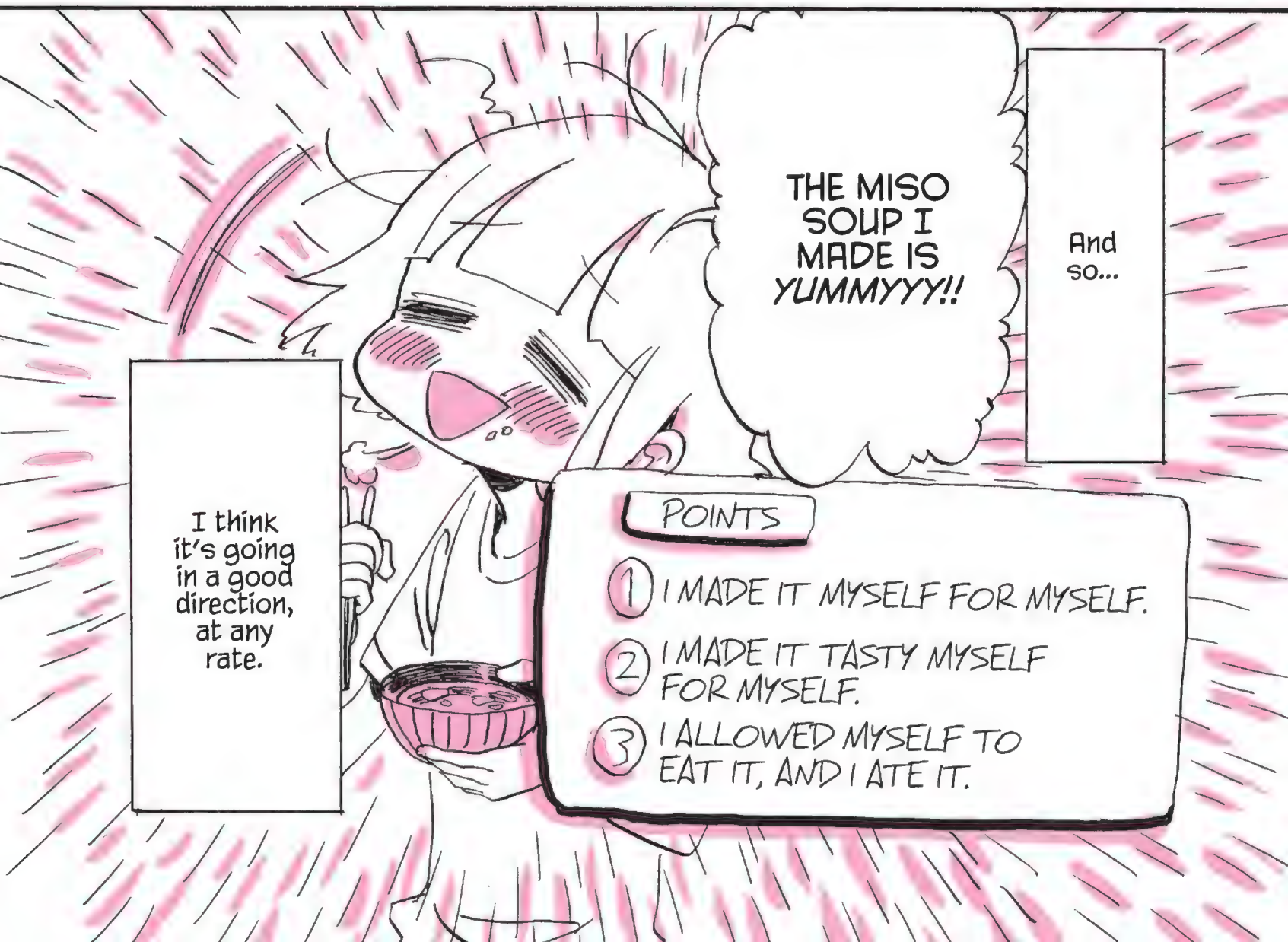
This is how life is now.







To keep that from happening, I've been thinking that I need to love myself (as much as I can, anyway).



THE MISO SOUP I MADE IS YUMMYYY!!

And so...

I think it's going in a good direction, at any rate.

POINTS

- ① I MADE IT MYSELF FOR MYSELF.
- ② I MADE IT TASTY MYSELF FOR MYSELF.
- ③ I ALLOWED MYSELF TO EAT IT, AND I ATE IT.



the protagonist (author) who found it hard to live...

ADULT



ADOLESCENCE



CHILDHOOD



Incidentally, in an essay about overcoming how hard it is to be alive...

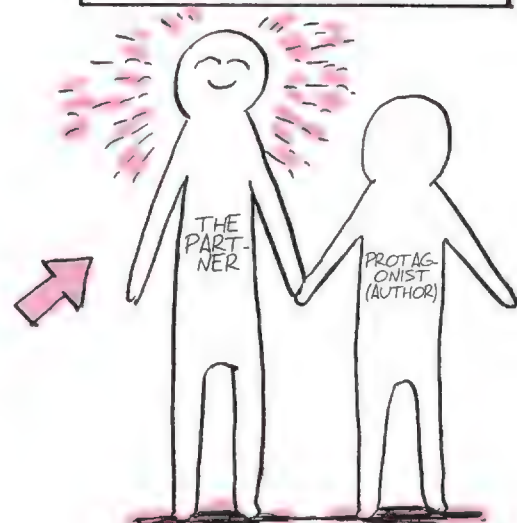
I read this feeling like I was witnessing a magic trick.

HOW DID THEY GET TO THIS PLACE?

WHERE DID THIS PERSON COME FROM, EXACTLY?

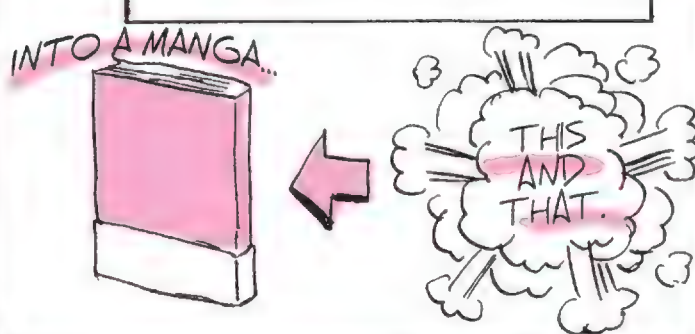


had a partner walk onto the scene who understands them.



The author/protagonist felt they could only express their feelings in a manga...

INTO A MANGA...



They didn't wallow in their hardships. They resolved them.



SO THAT THEY CAN LIVE...



and after being strong enough to be able to do that for themselves...

and build a good relationship... maybe?

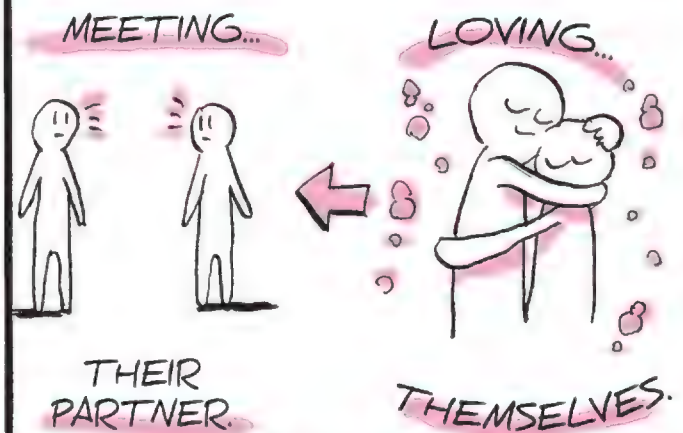


they were able to meet their partner...

Even if you
aren't looking
for a partner,
I think loving
yourself is a
wonderful skill--
one I'd really
like to learn.



You
sometimes
hear stories about
people who meet
their partner after
learning to love
themselves.



Despite all
this...

If I can't
do that,
I would--
at the very
least--
like to stop
finding fault
with myself.



So in the end,
I guess I still
don't know
what I'm
looking for.
I'd like to
consider that
next time.

when I read
someone's happy
anecdote about
their partner,
I still feel bad
and cry like
before.



My
Wandering
Warrior
Existence

Chapter 8: Why Do Happy Moments Between Partners Shake Me Up?

I kind of
stopped
wanting to
happen upon
my partner.

SATISFIED ON MY OWN



After
fretting
about all
sorts of
things...

FRET

FRET

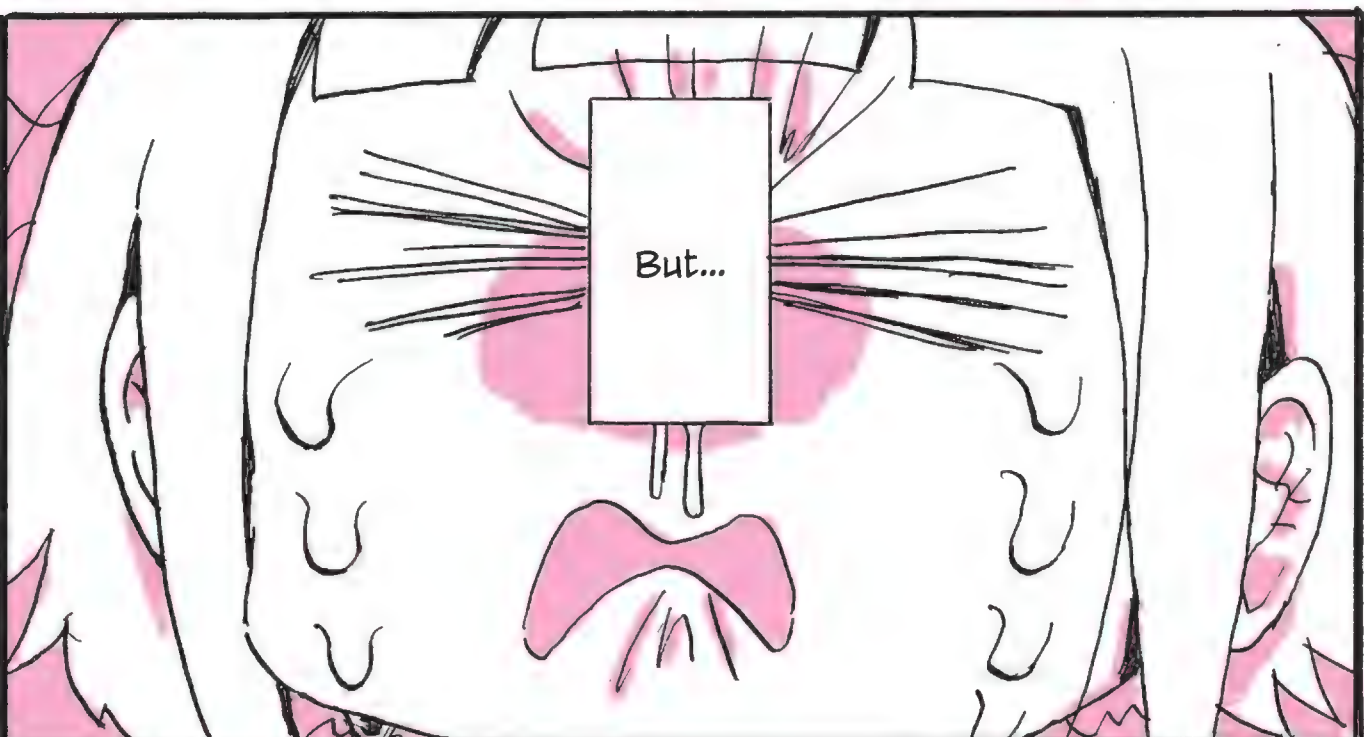


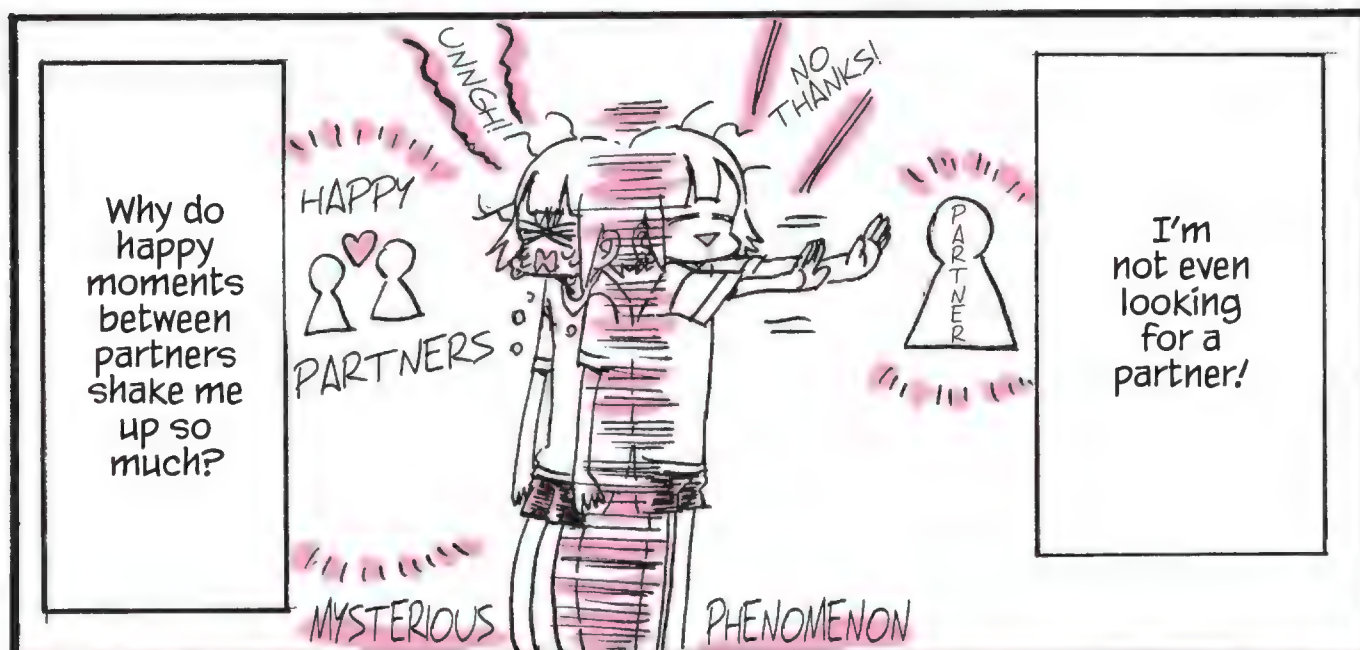
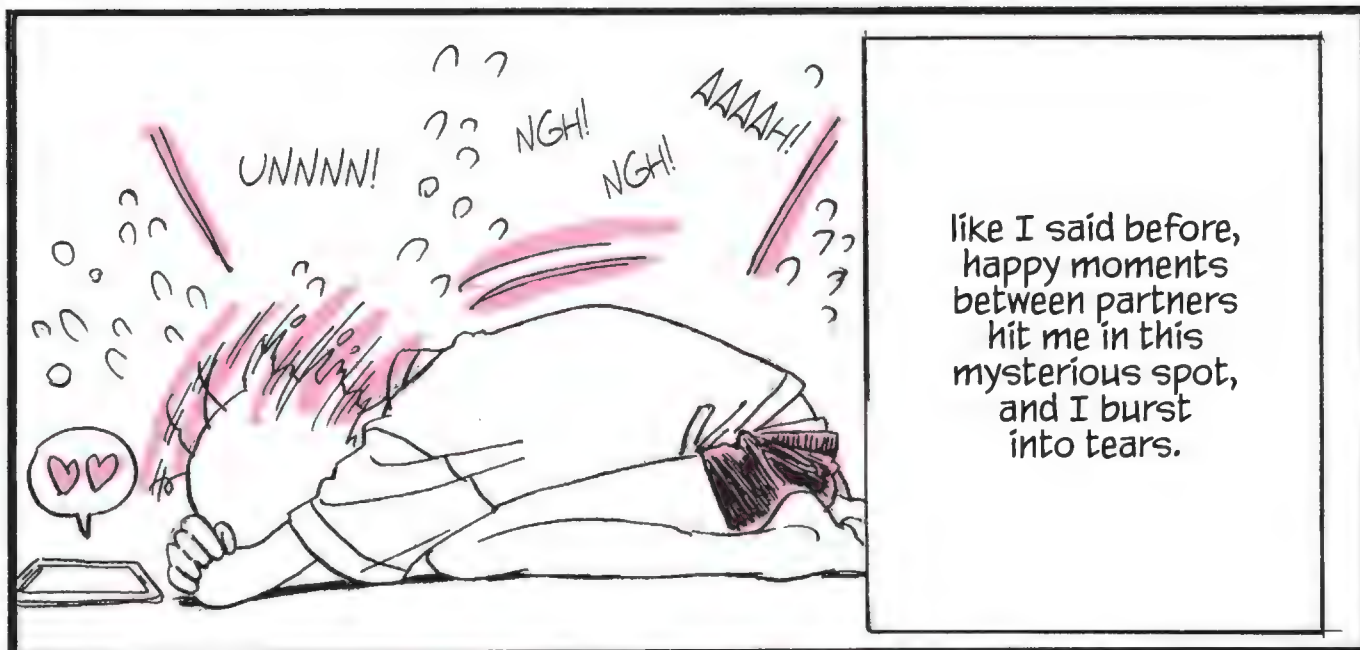
MAIL FROM A READER

ET
CETERA...



But...

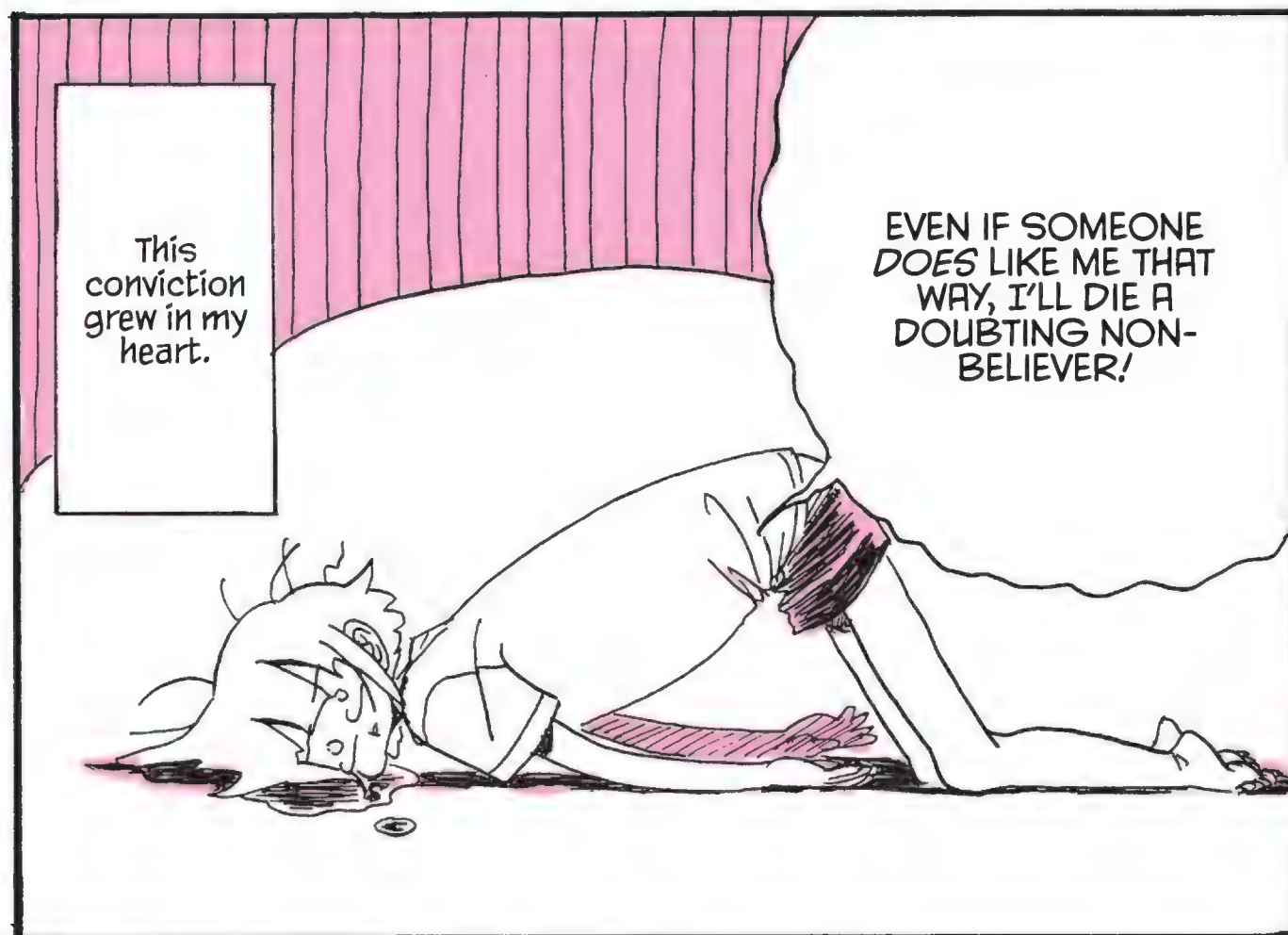
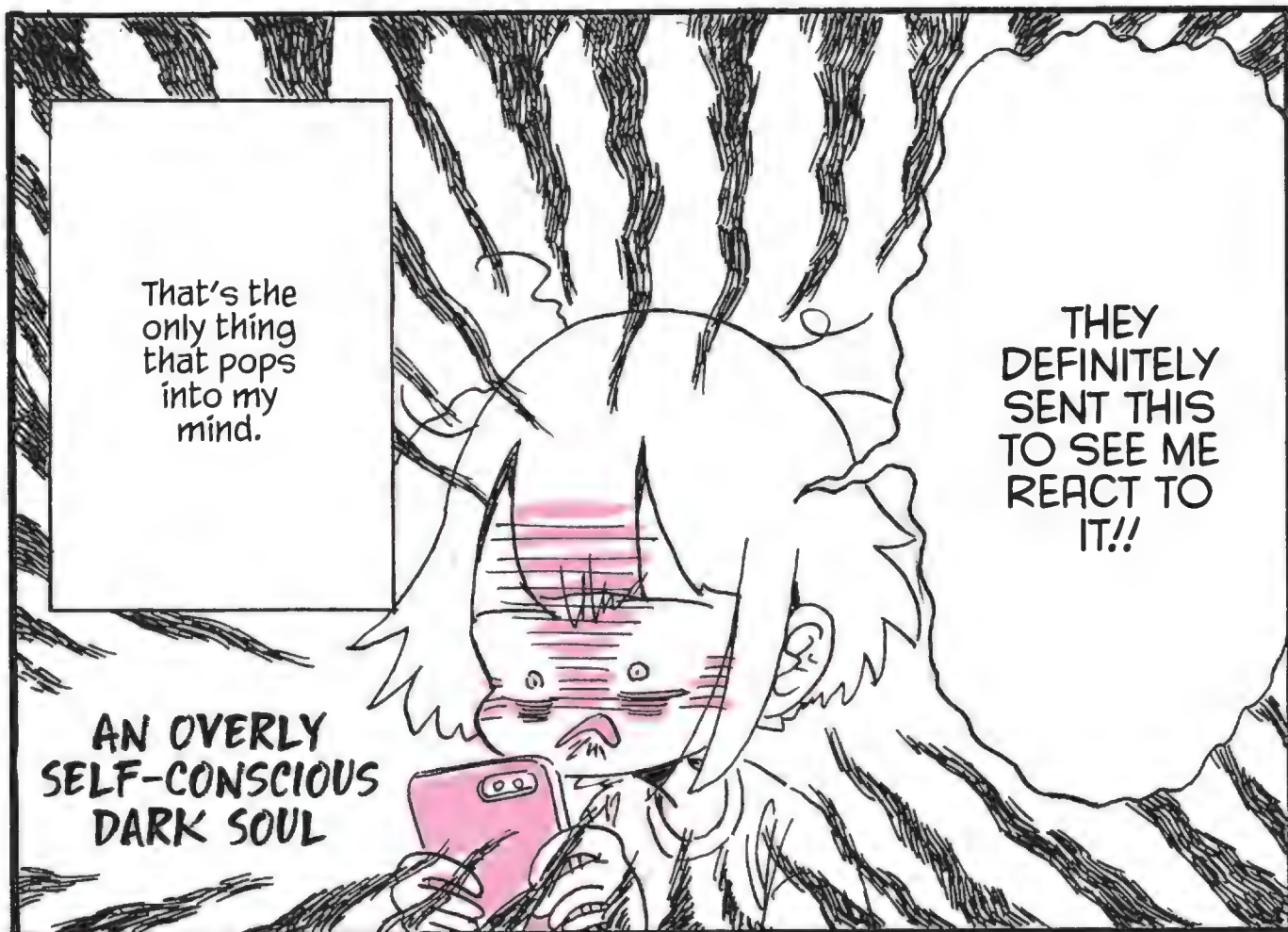


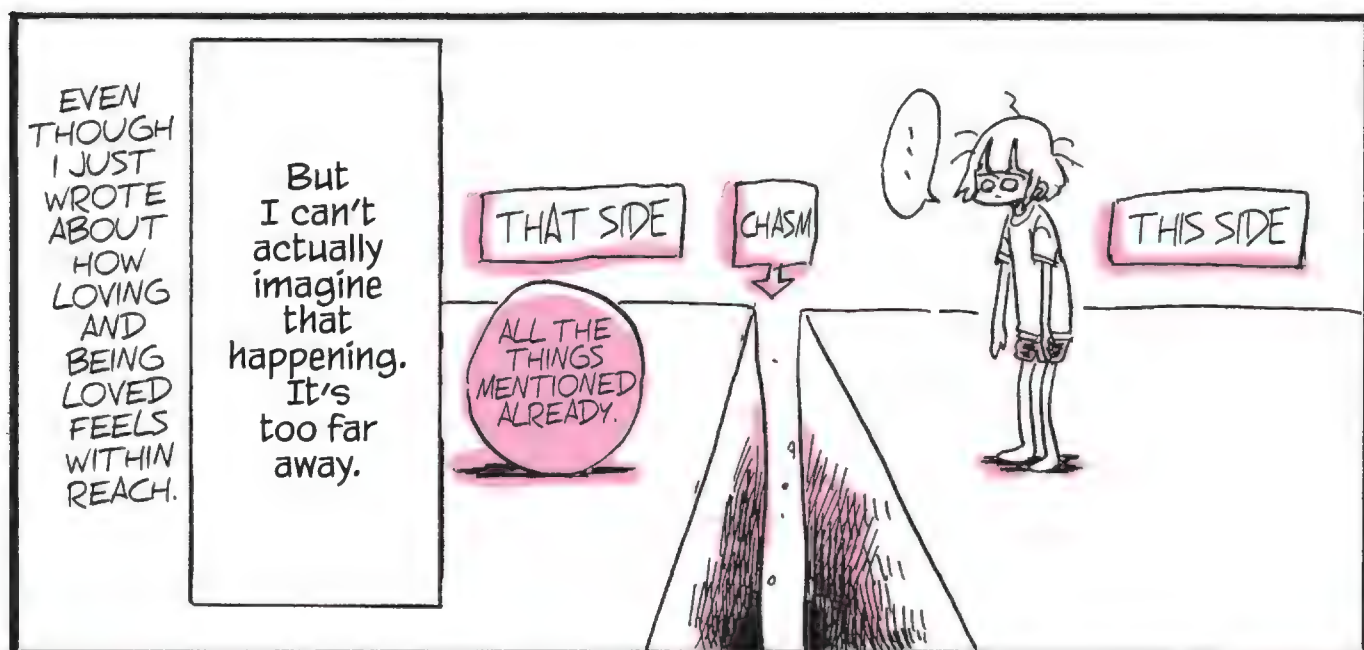
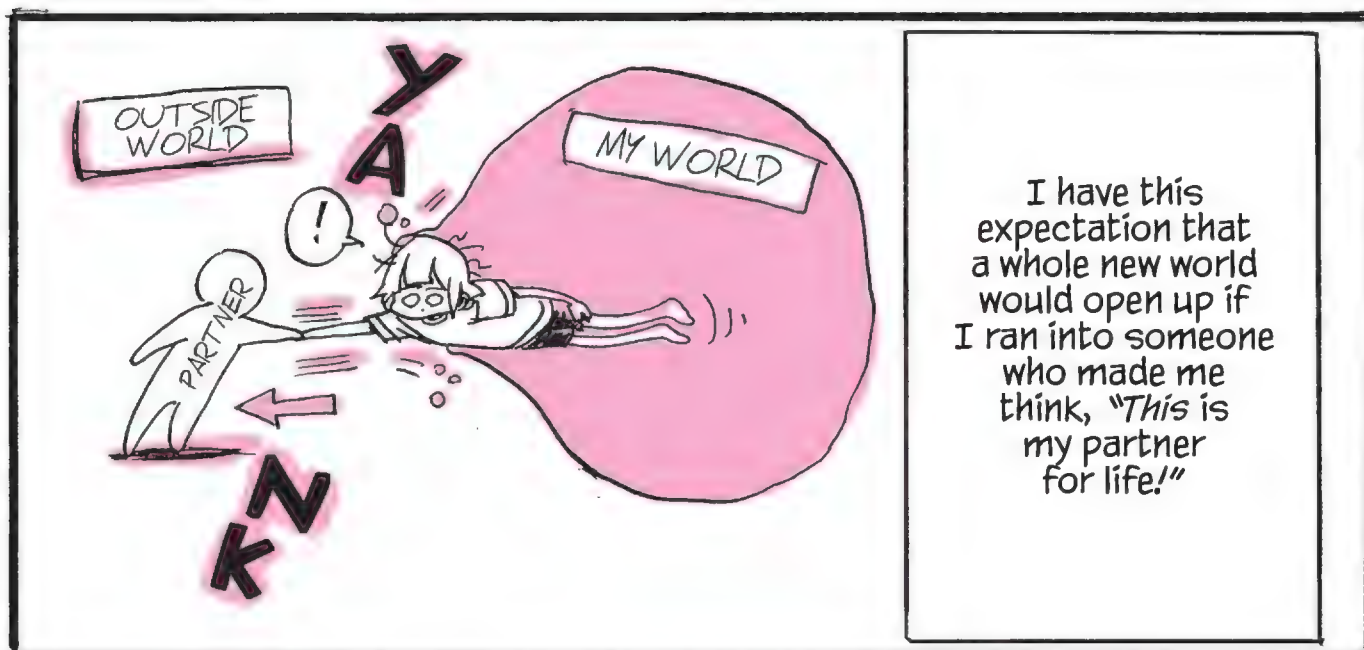


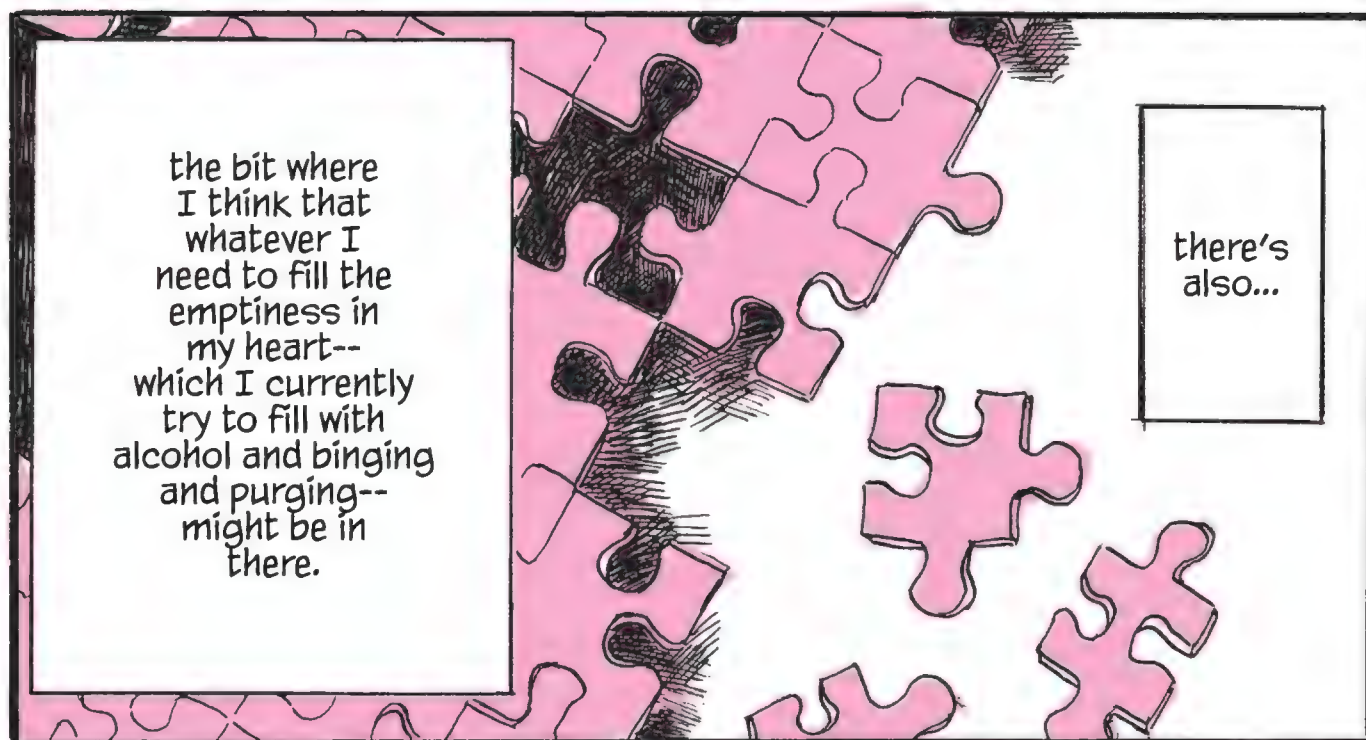


it's that they're happy in a way I've never felt-- and probably will never feel. It makes me feel bad and jealous.











That's
what I
think
now.

THAT'S
WEIRD.
AND, LIKE,
SUPER
RISKY.

DID I WANT TO
DATE AND GET
MARRIED FOR
THE SAKE OF
SOMETHING
I DON'T EVEN
UNDERSTAND?

WAIT.

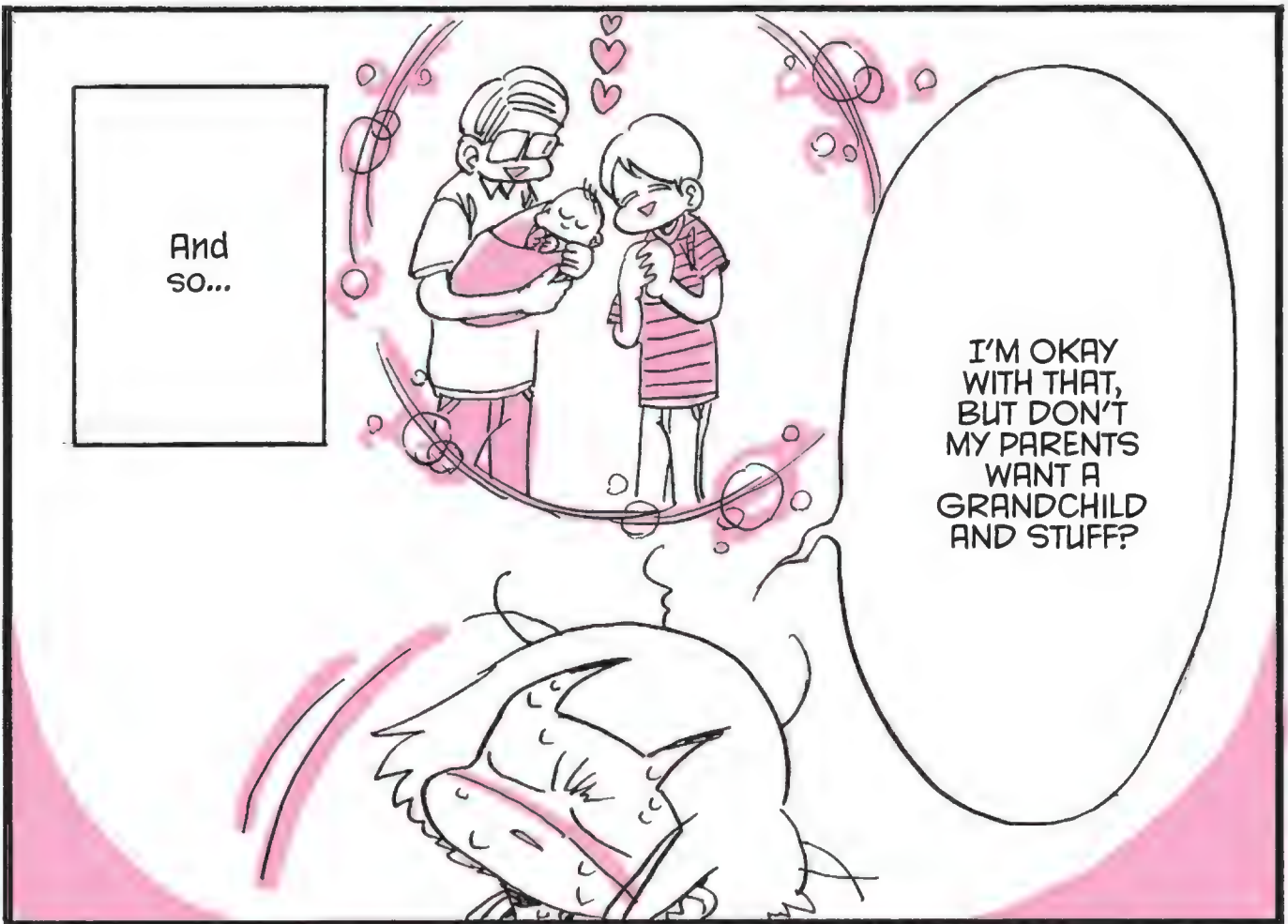


That's
what I've
been
thinking
lately.
But...

✕ I DO THINK
THERE
ARE CASES
WHERE THE
SUPPORT OF
A PARTNER
CAN HELP
SOMEONE
QUIT OR
HEAL
SOMETHING,
THOUGH.

I doubt a partner
would magically
fill up the
emptiness in
my heart,
or help me
quit or heal
anything.





~THE STORY SO FAR~

That's
what
I've been
thinking.

DON'T MY
PARENTS
WANT A
GRAND-
CHILD?

Although
I'm no longer
desperately
longing for a
partner...

A Final Chapter for the Time Being: I'm Happy Now

YOUNGER
SISTER

The people
next door to my
parents have
grandchildren.

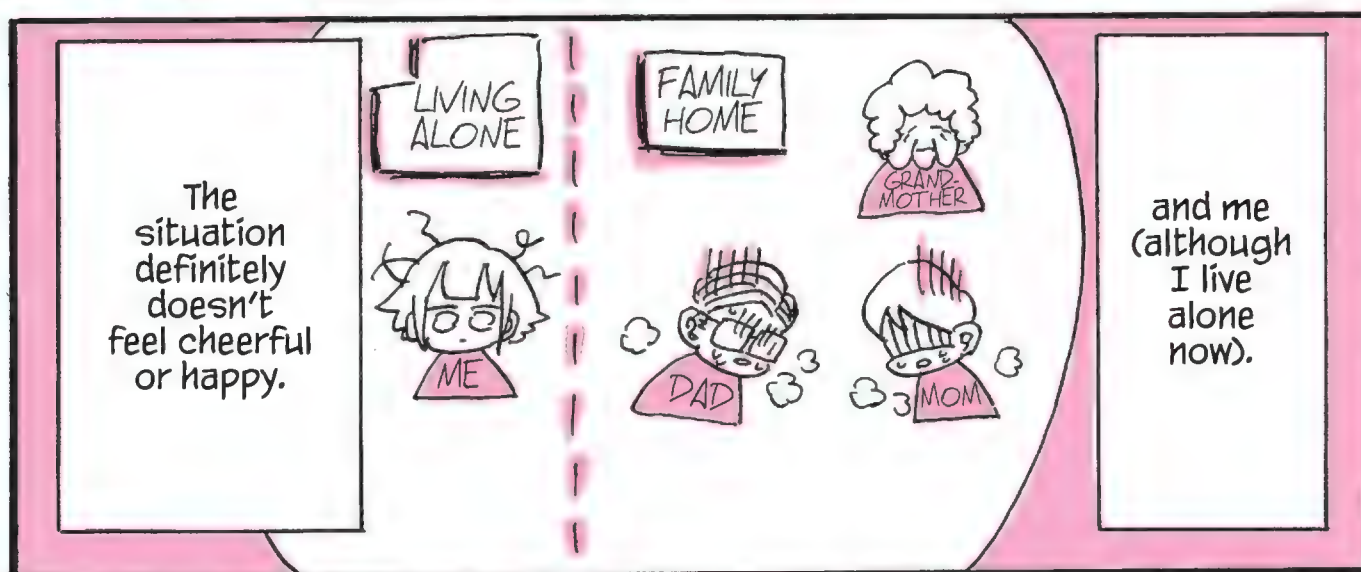
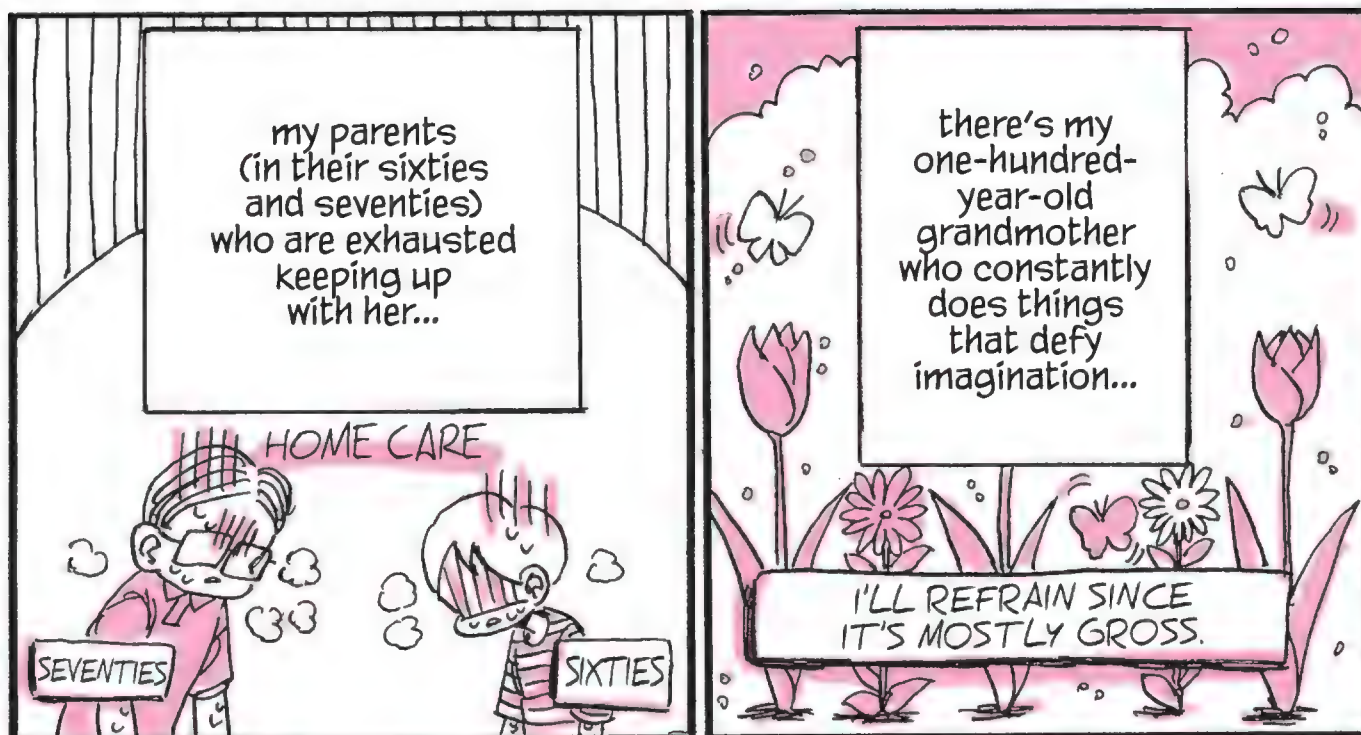
OLDER
SISTER

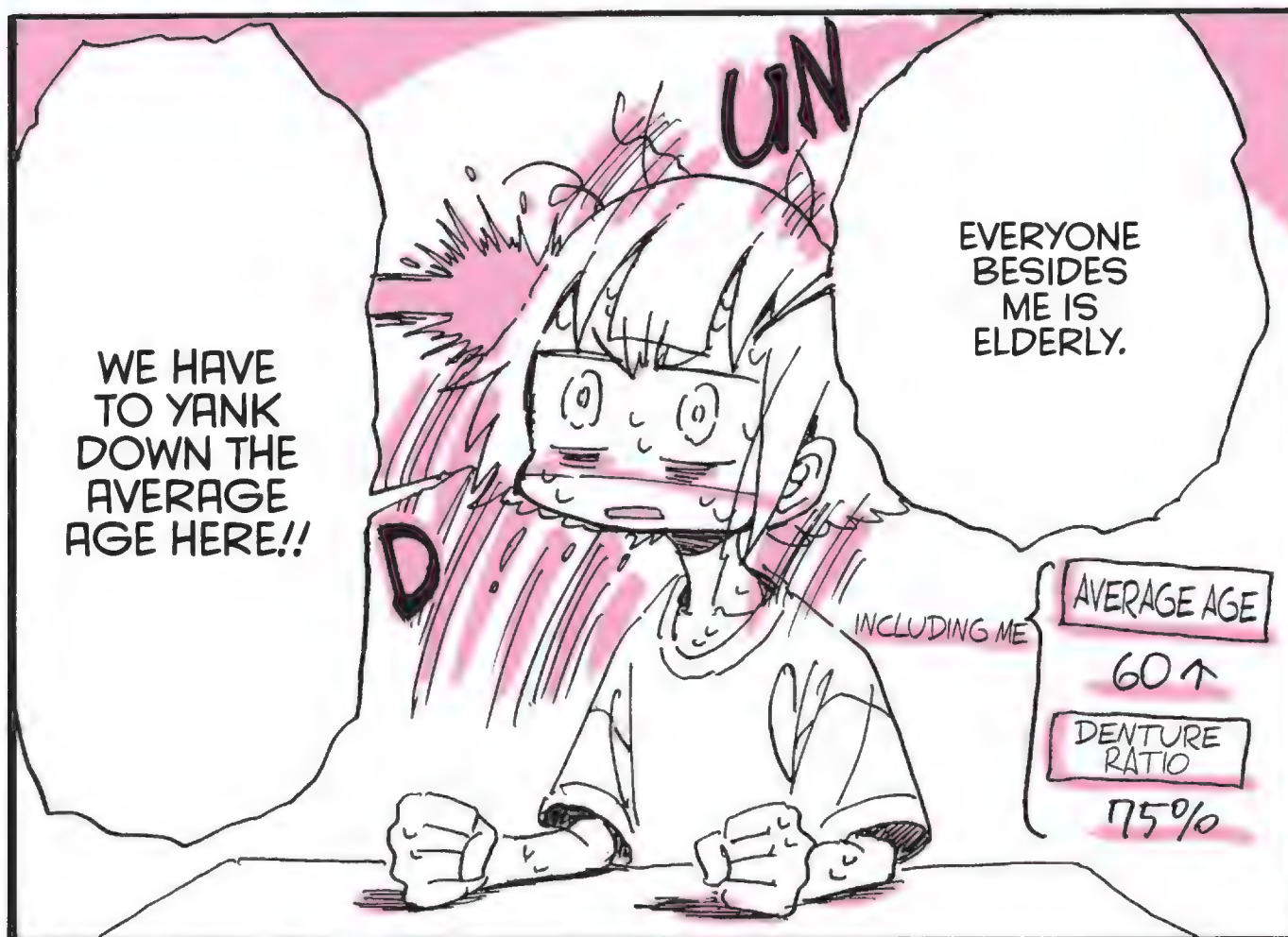
Meanwhile,
at my
parents'
house...

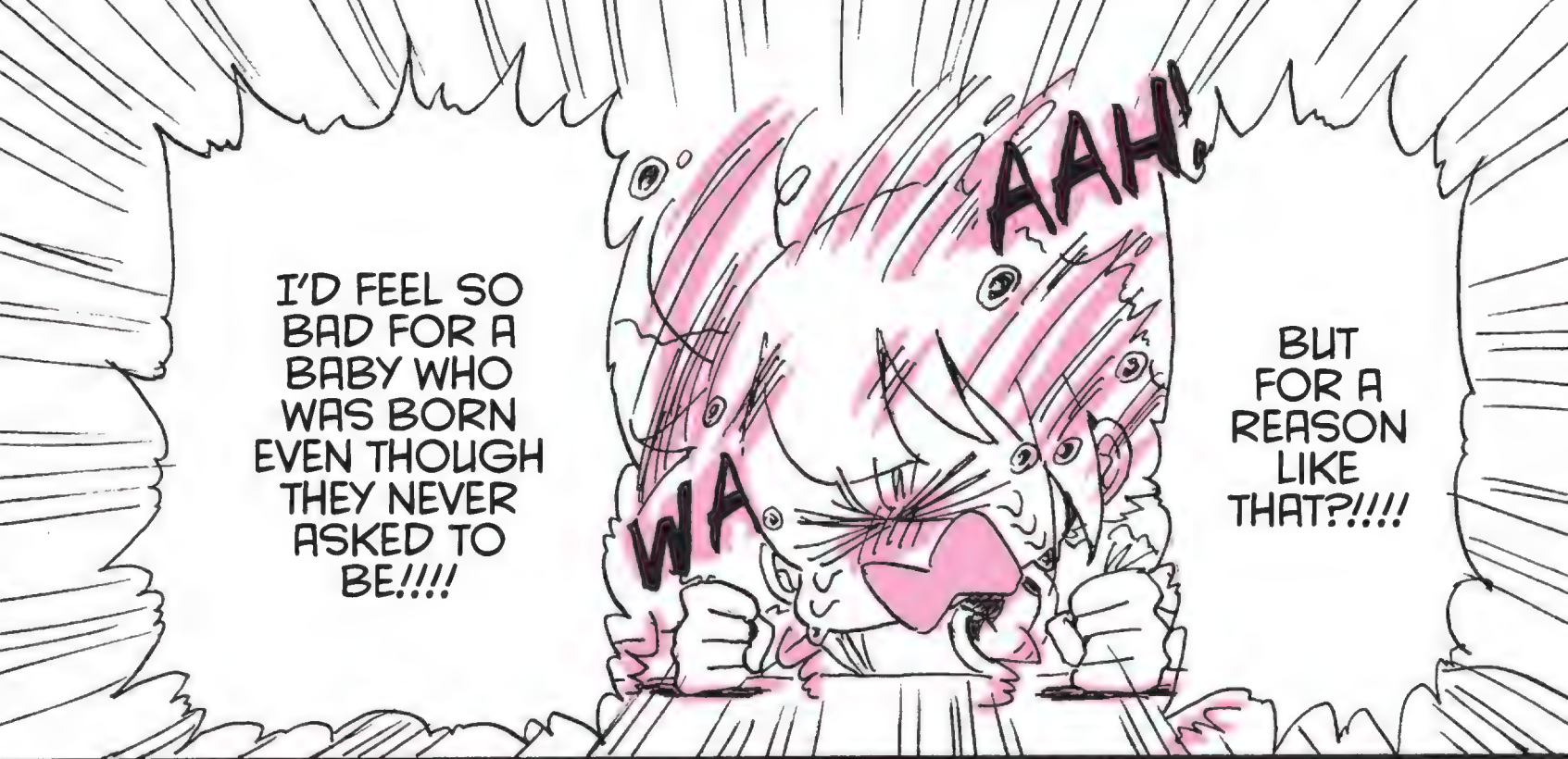
I hear a lot
of scolding,
but in general,
everyone seems
pretty happy.

LISTEN,
YOU

BYAAH!!







I'D FEEL SO
BAD FOR A
BABY WHO
WAS BORN
EVEN THOUGH
THEY NEVER
ASKED TO
BE!!!!

BUT
FOR A
REASON
LIKE
THAT?!!!!

He wrote that, but...

(OMITTED)

I THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE HOW MANY BOOKS I'D HAVE TO WRITE FOR IT BE THE SAME AS RAISING ONE CHILD.

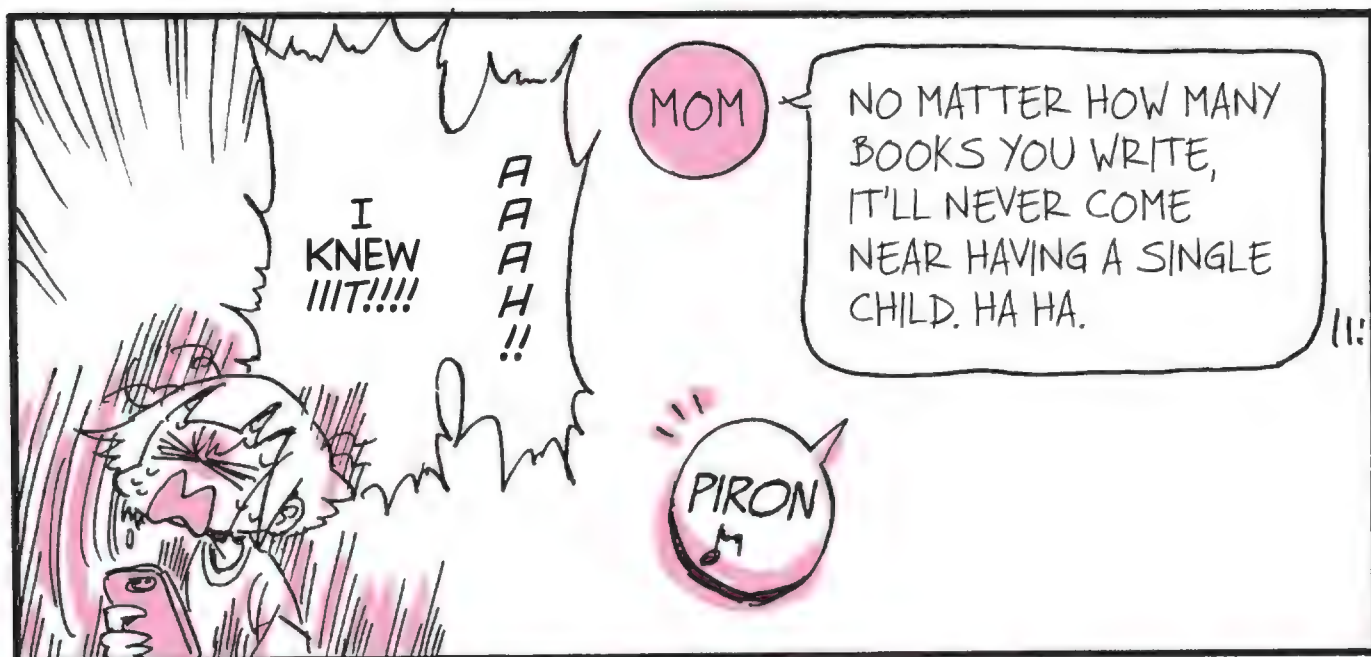
(OMITTED)

In Homura Hiroshi-san's essay...

※From Homura Hiroshi's Sekai Onchi (Shogakukan).

I texted this to my mother.

THAT'S WHAT HE WROTE, AND I'VE TOTALLY WONDERED THE SAME THING.

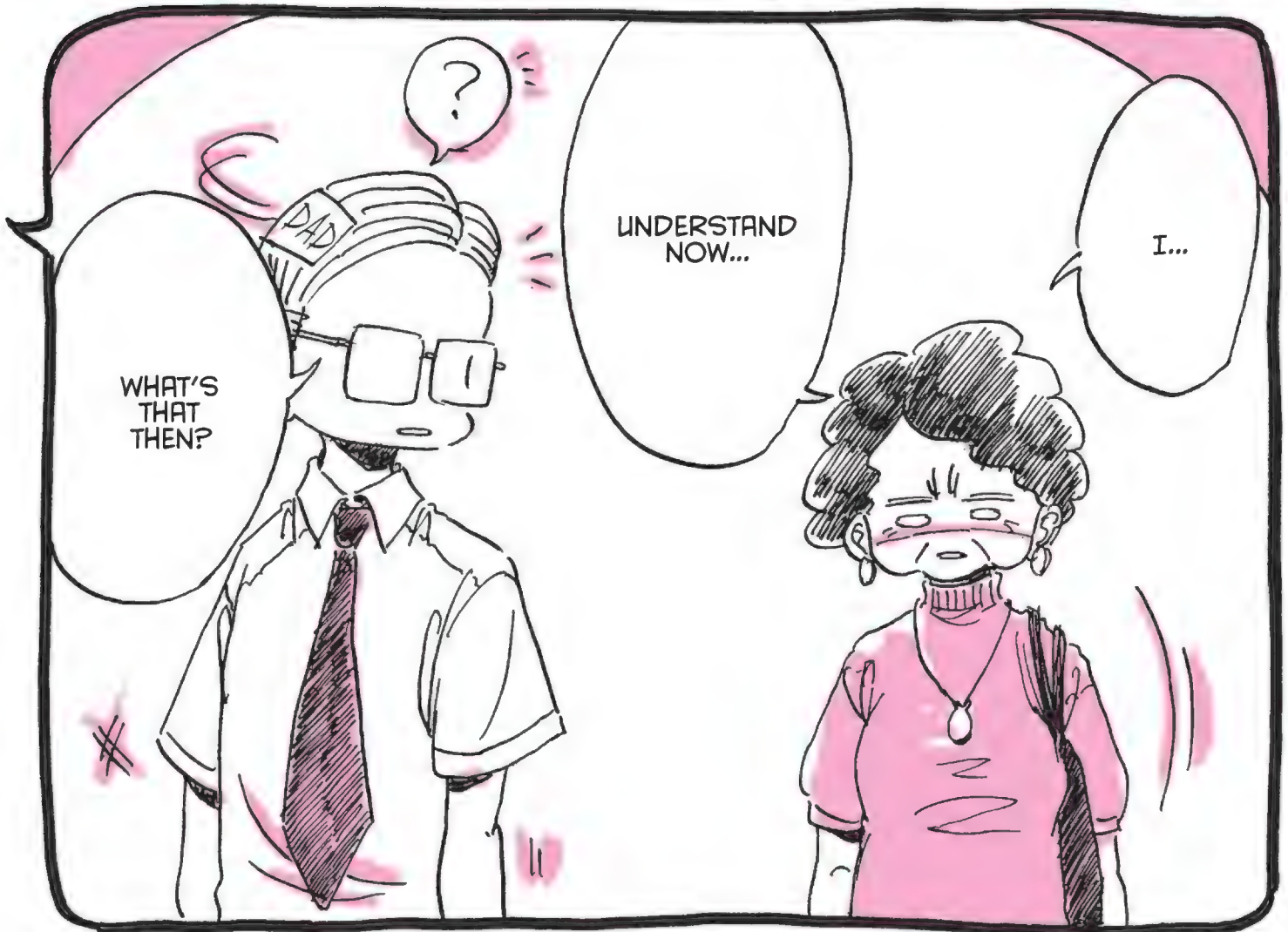


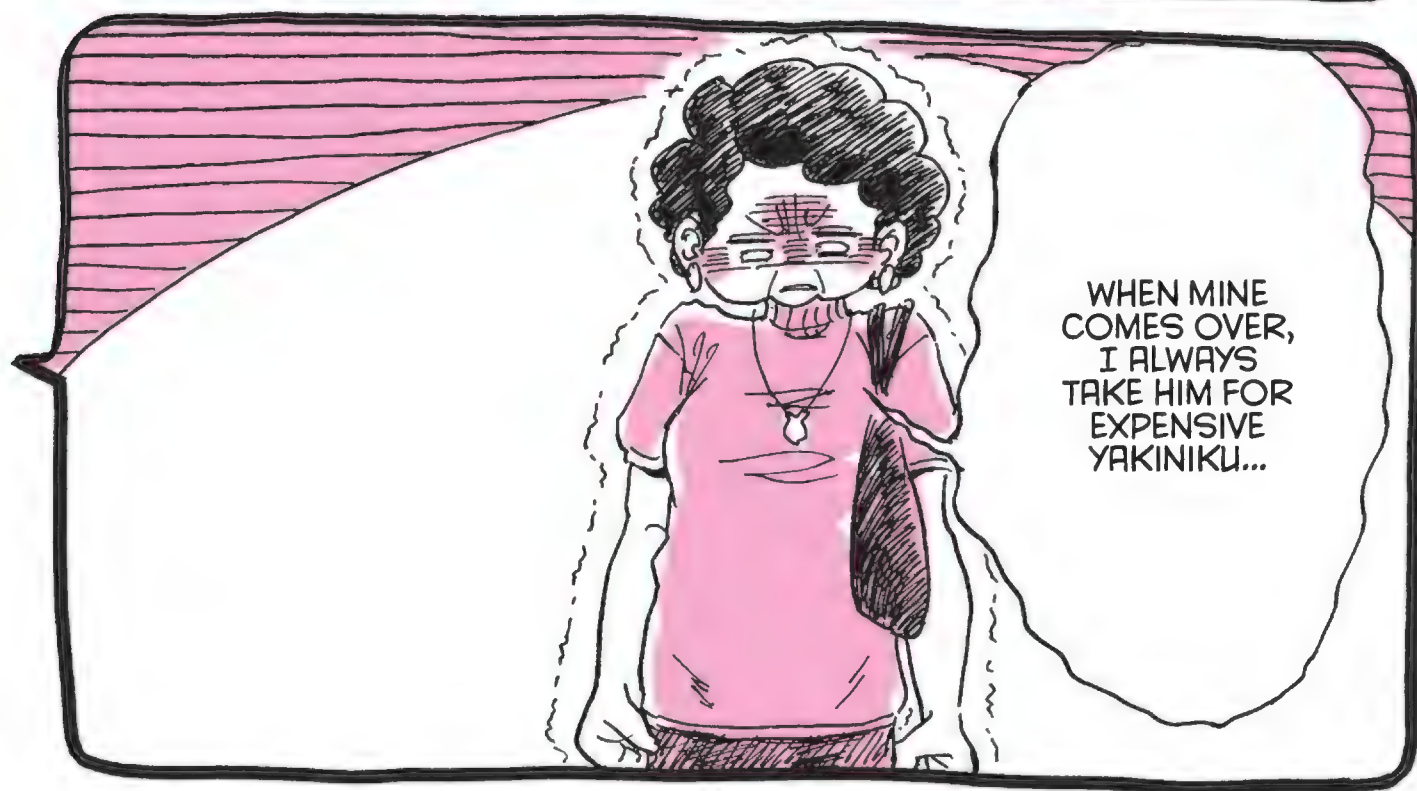
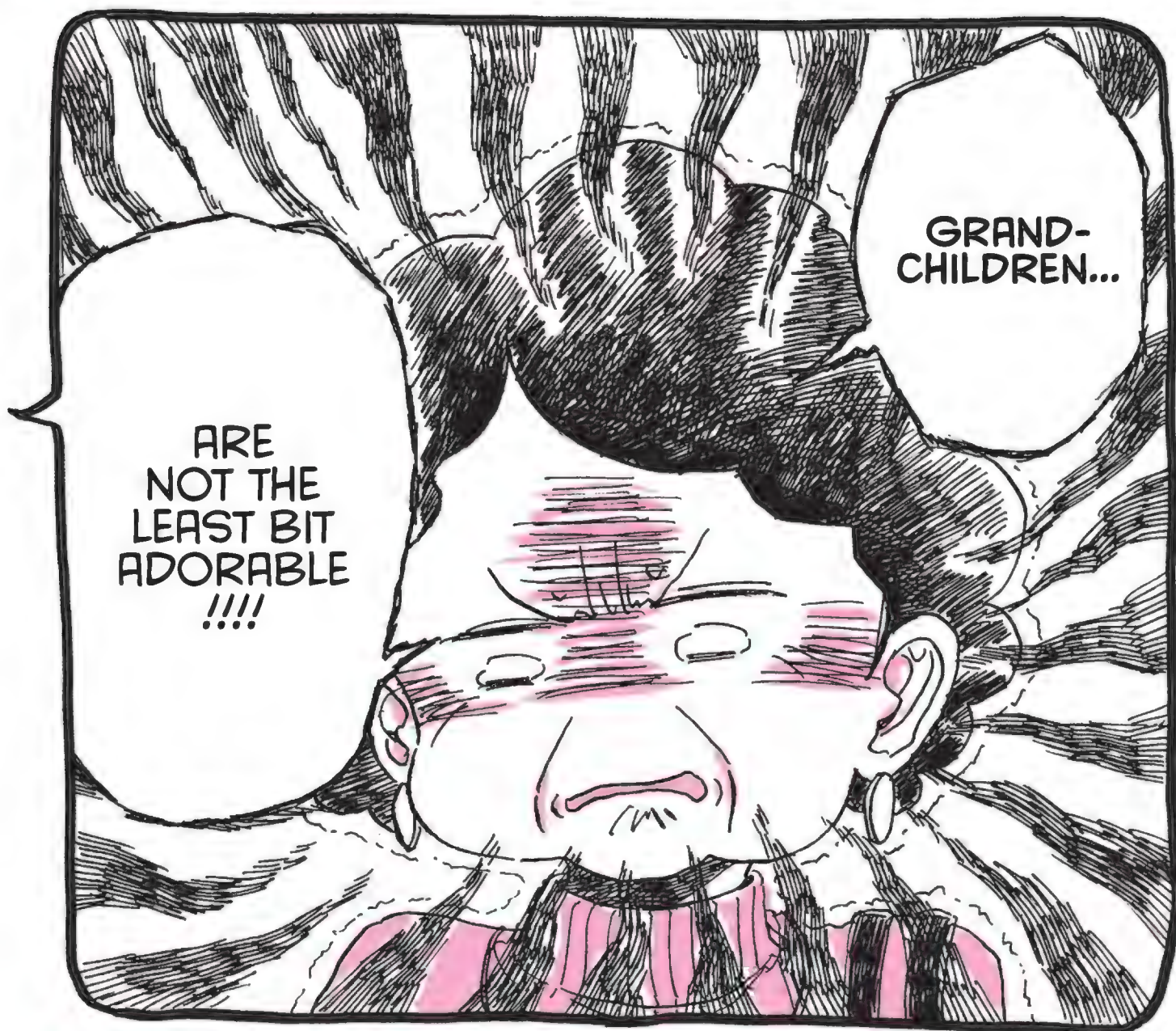


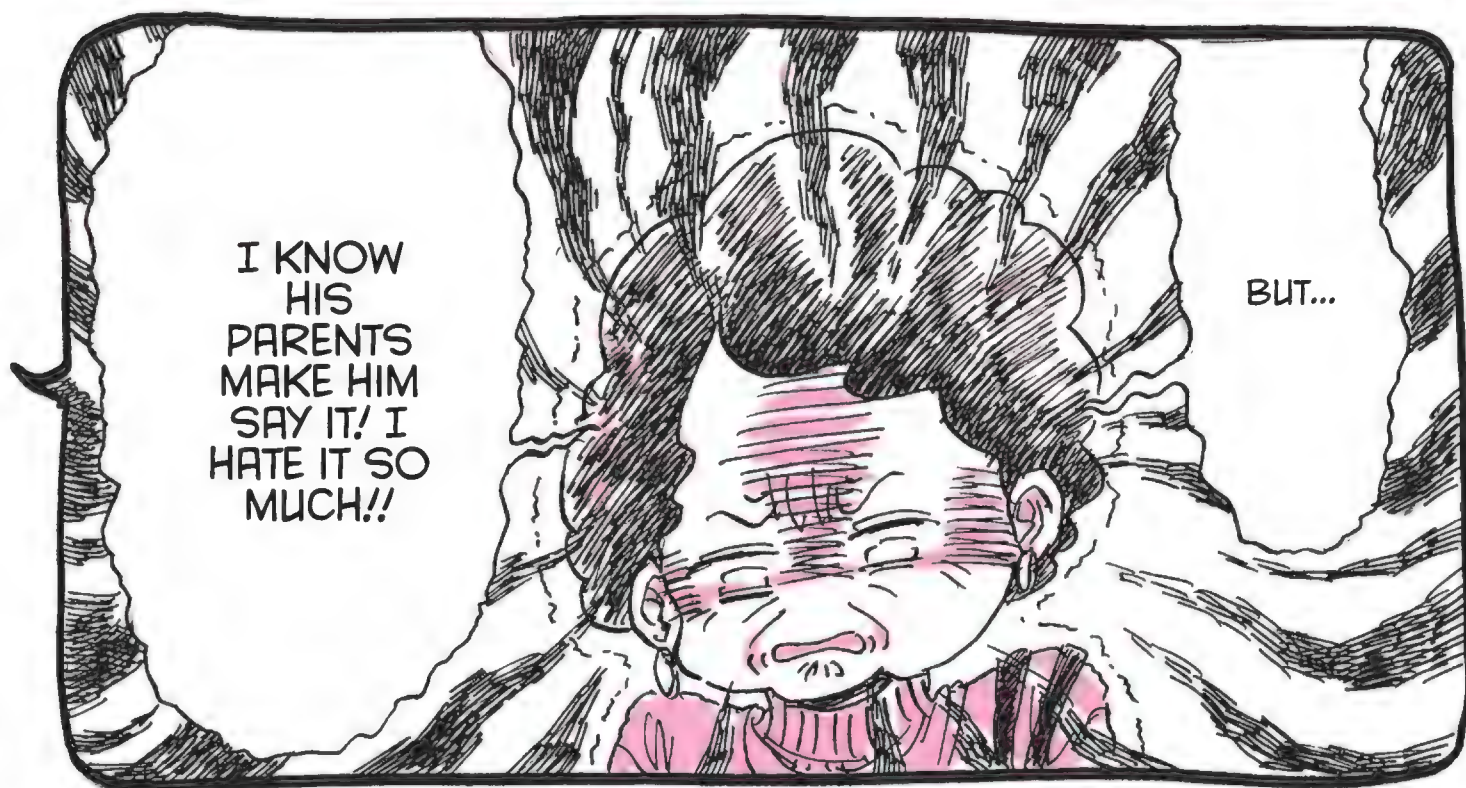
MOM

A WOMAN IN THE
GUITAR CLASS YOUR
FATHER TAKES...

|||||



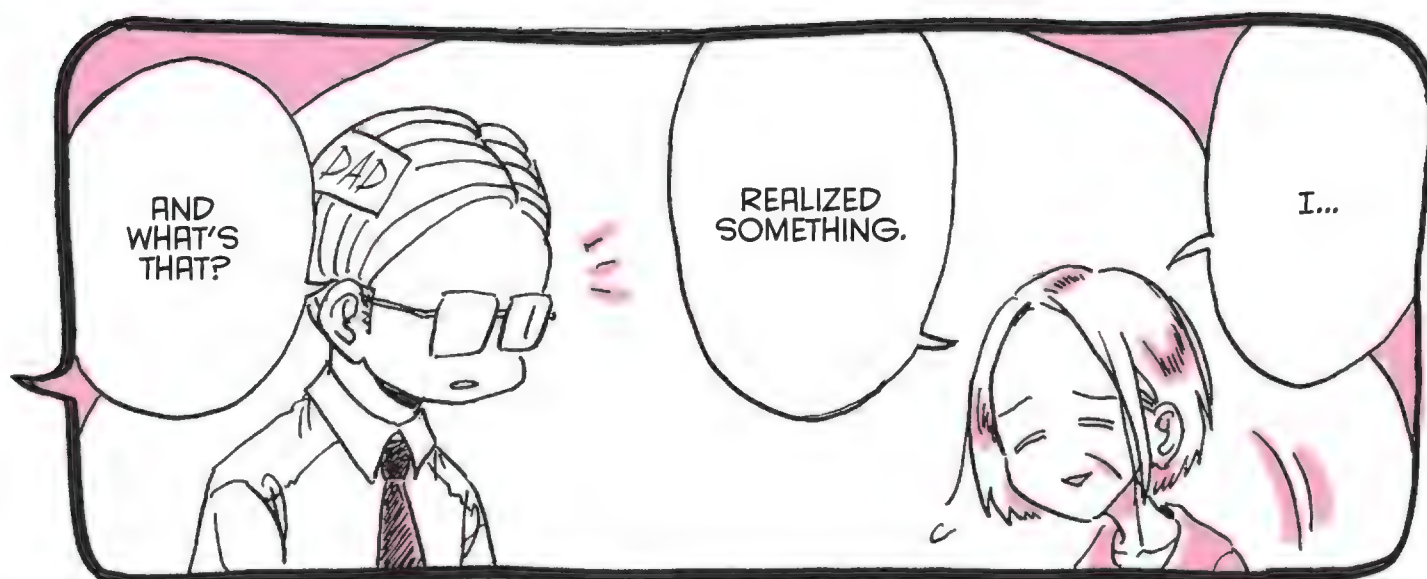




MOM

ALSO...

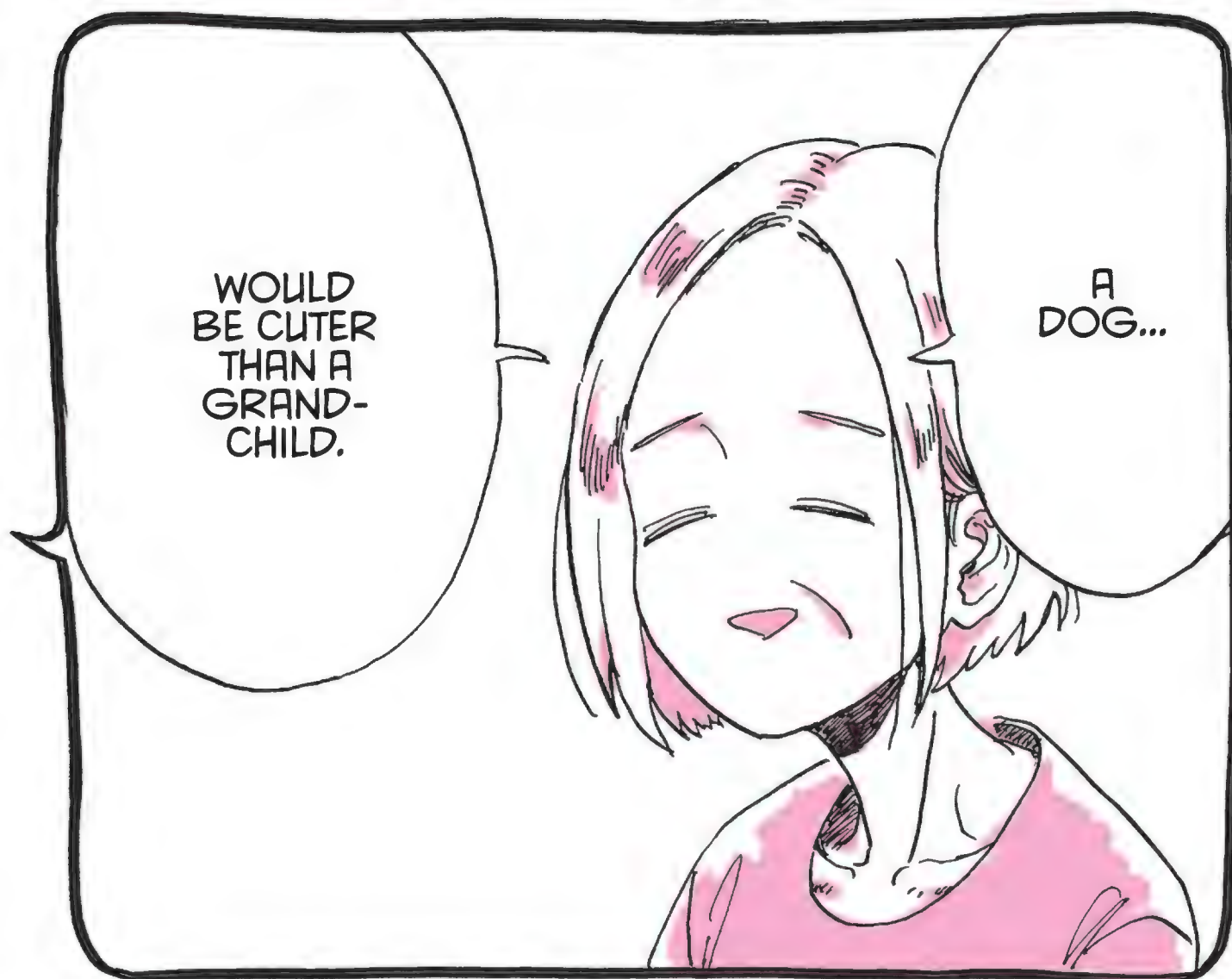
||||



AND
WHAT'S
THAT?

REALIZED
SOMETHING.

I...



WOULD
BE CUTER
THAN A
GRAND-
CHILD.

A
DOG...

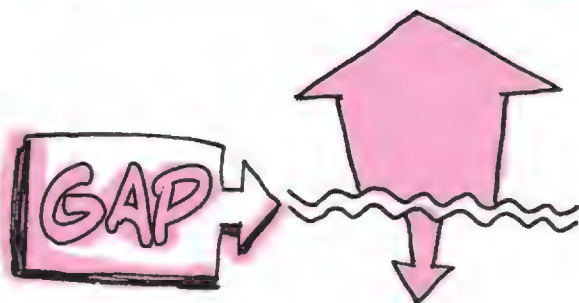
MOM

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID, APPARENTLY.

|||



MY ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT PEOPLES' FEELINGS
FOR A THEORETICAL GRANDCHILD.



MY MOM'S
TWO EXAMPLES.

WHAA-
AAA?!
FOR
REAL??!!



In that moment,
my firm belief that
"grandchild = the apple
of everyone's eye"
cracked and
crumbled.



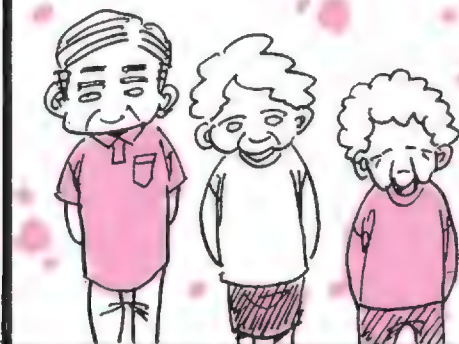
I THOUGHT
HAVING A GRAND-
CHILD FIXED
EVERYTHING...

READ
11:11

MOM

I GUESS NOT
ALWAYS.

And...

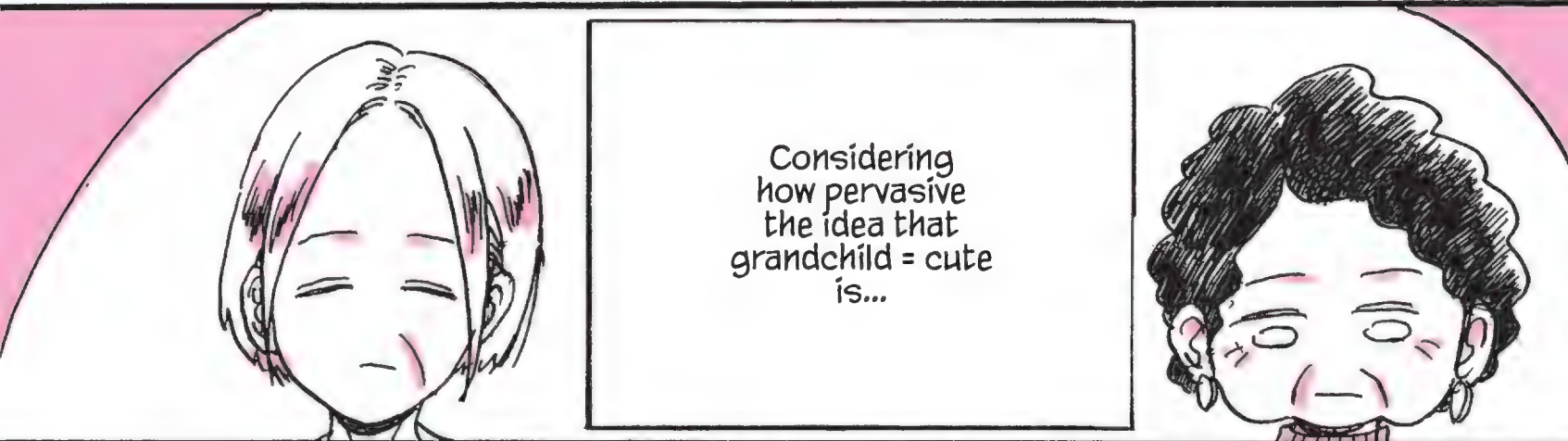
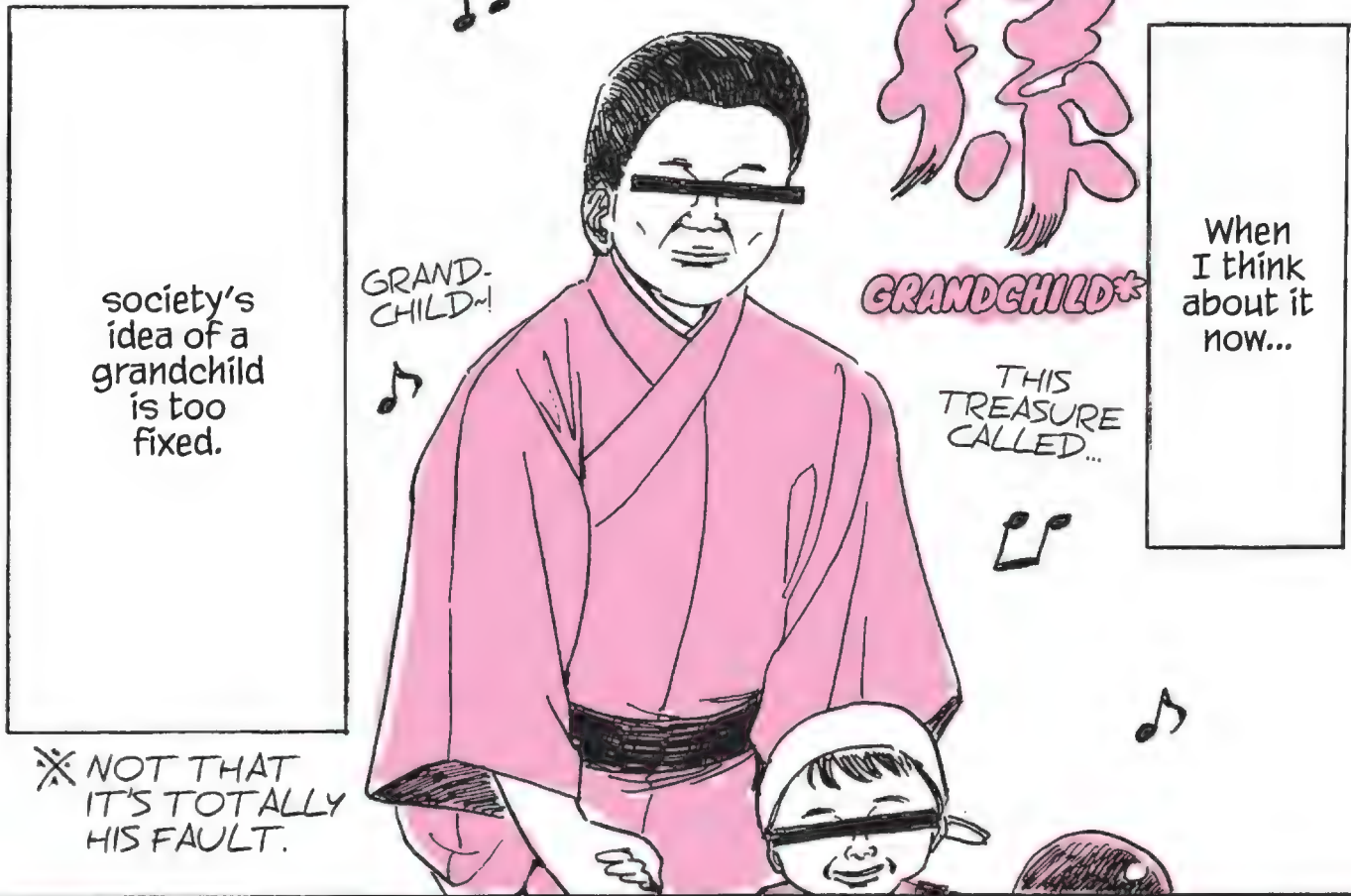


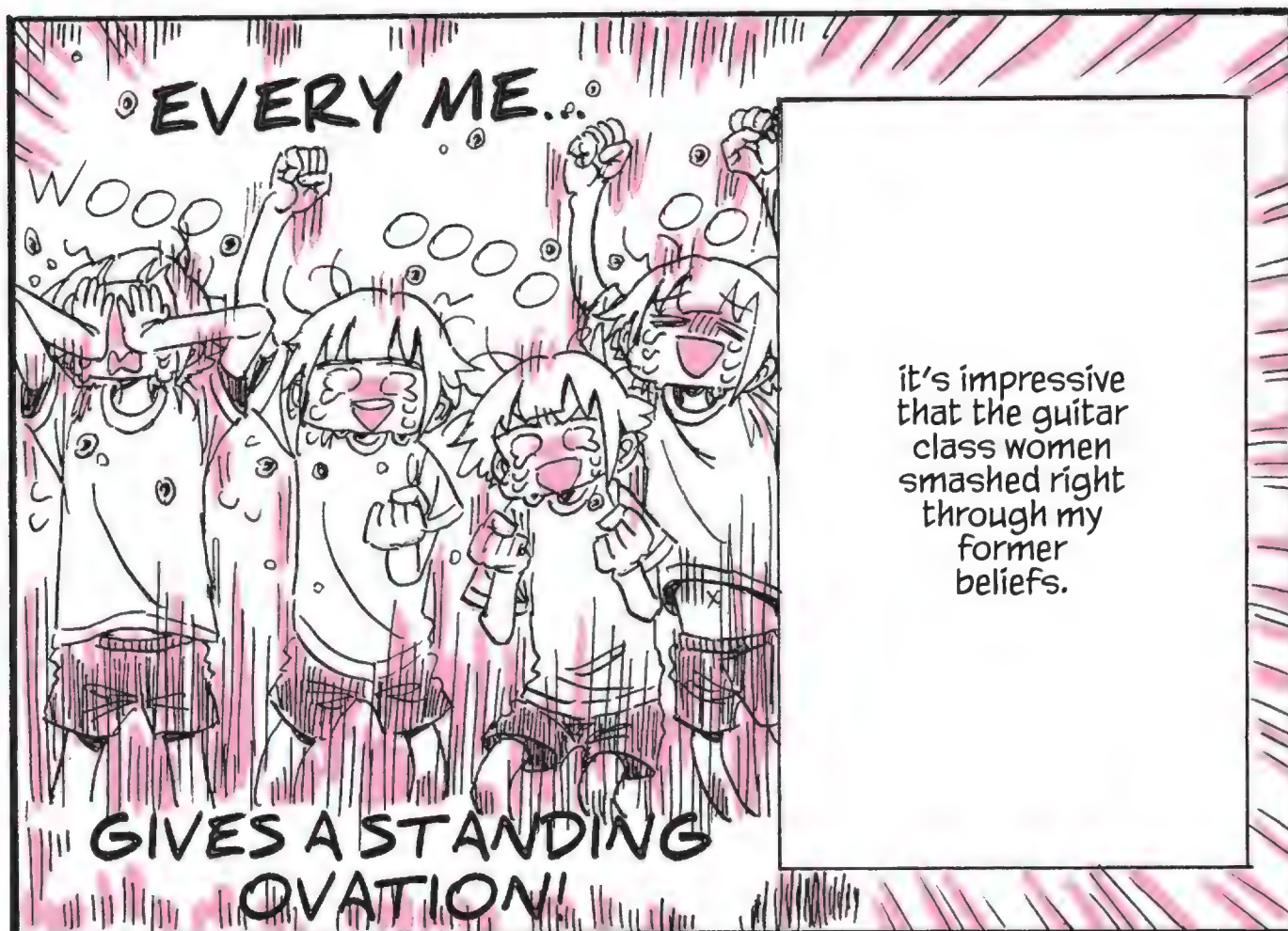
After hearing
those two
examples,
my heart grew
incredibly
light.



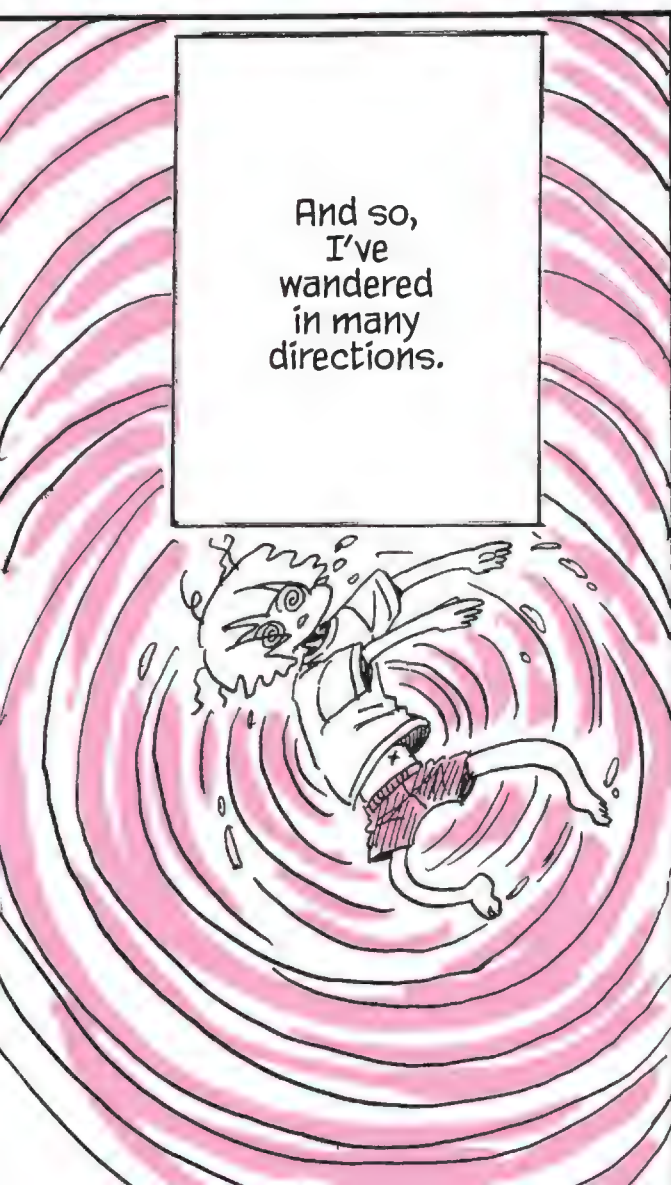


*A famous enka song by Oizumi Itsuro.





it's impressive
that the guitar
class women
smashed right
through my
former
beliefs.



And so,
I've
wandered
in many
directions.



THANK
YOU...

I'm also so
grateful that my
parents are here
for me and don't go
around saying
they want a
grandchild.

I'm fine
whether
or not I
have that
grandchild.

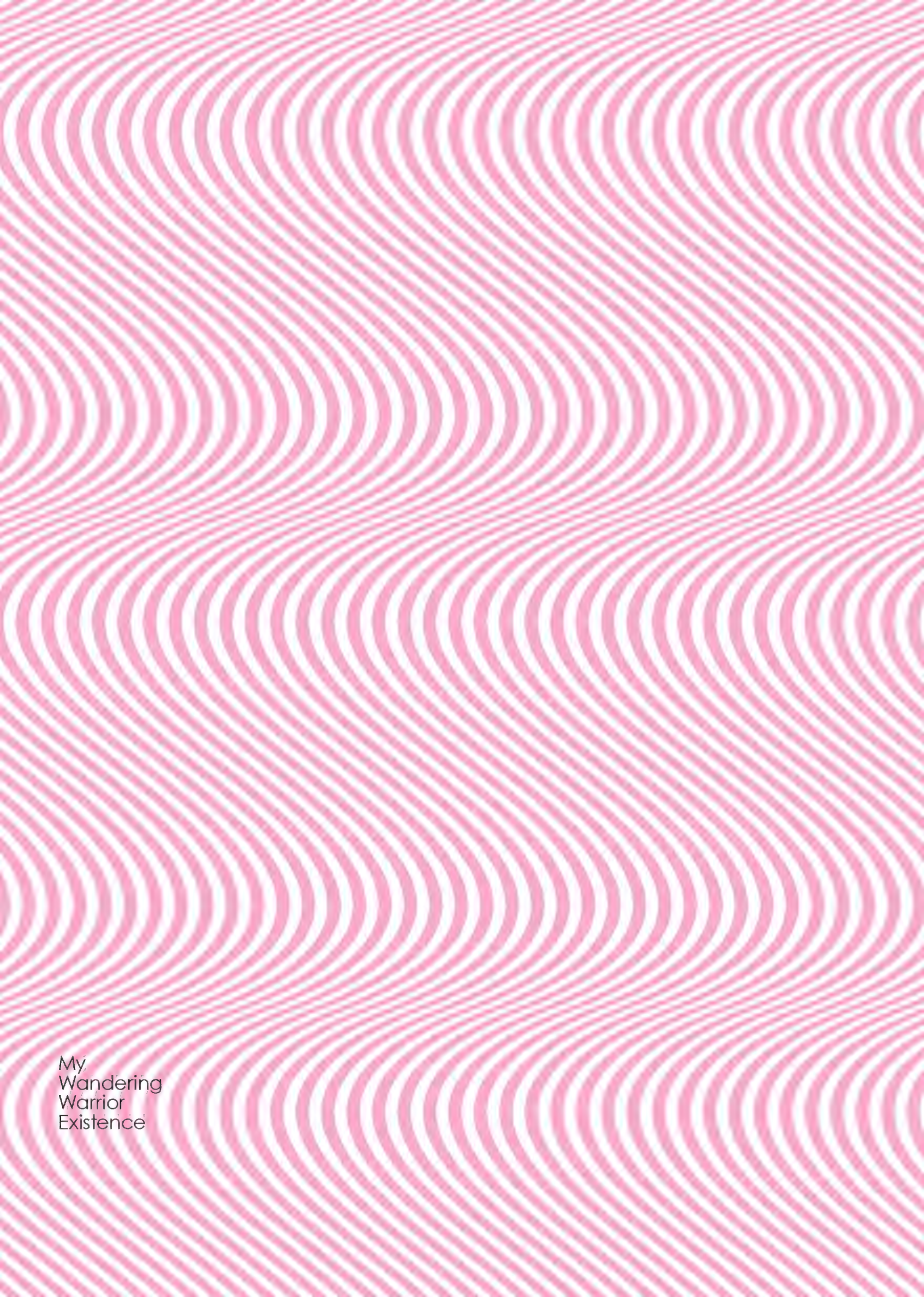


I'm
enjoying living
on my own.
I'm fine with
or without
dating and
getting
married.

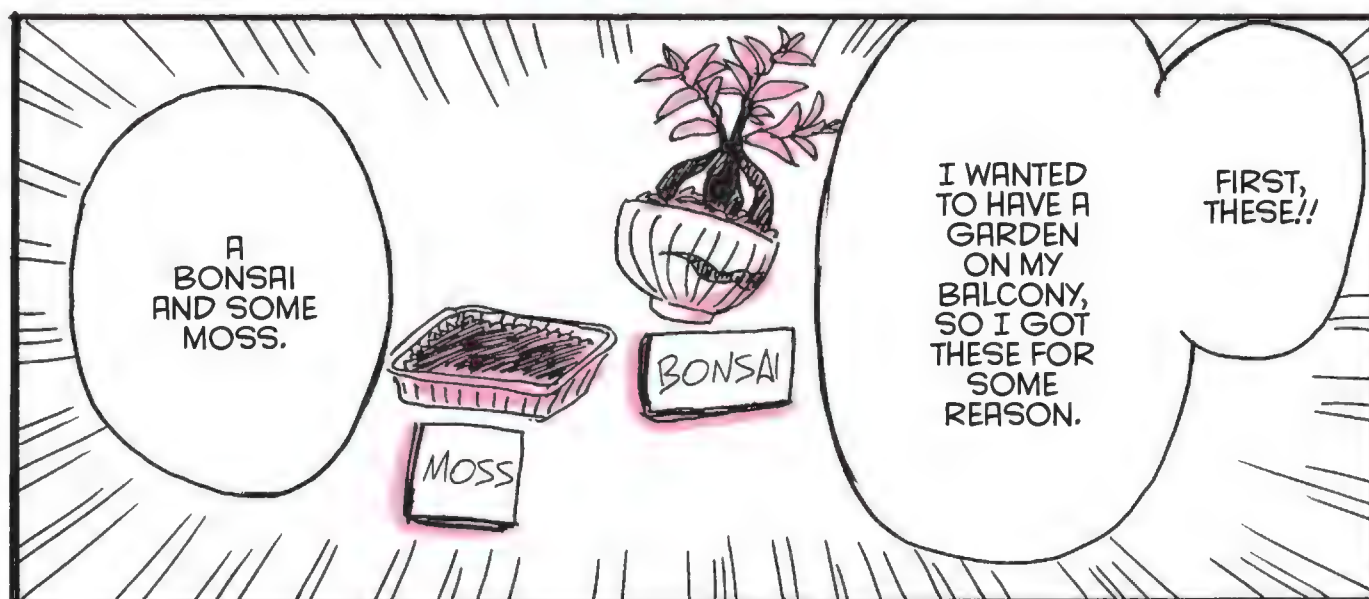
Thanks to
all of you,
and this
and that,
I'm happy
right now.

BOW



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of thin, wavy, pink lines on a white background. The lines are arranged in a series of parallel, undulating waves that create a sense of movement and depth. The pattern is consistent across the entire surface.

My
Wandering
Warrior
Existence



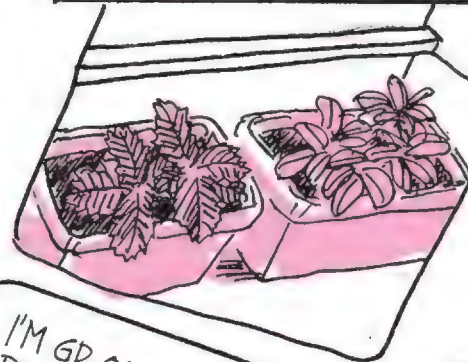
When I
went to
the home
center...

HOME CENTER



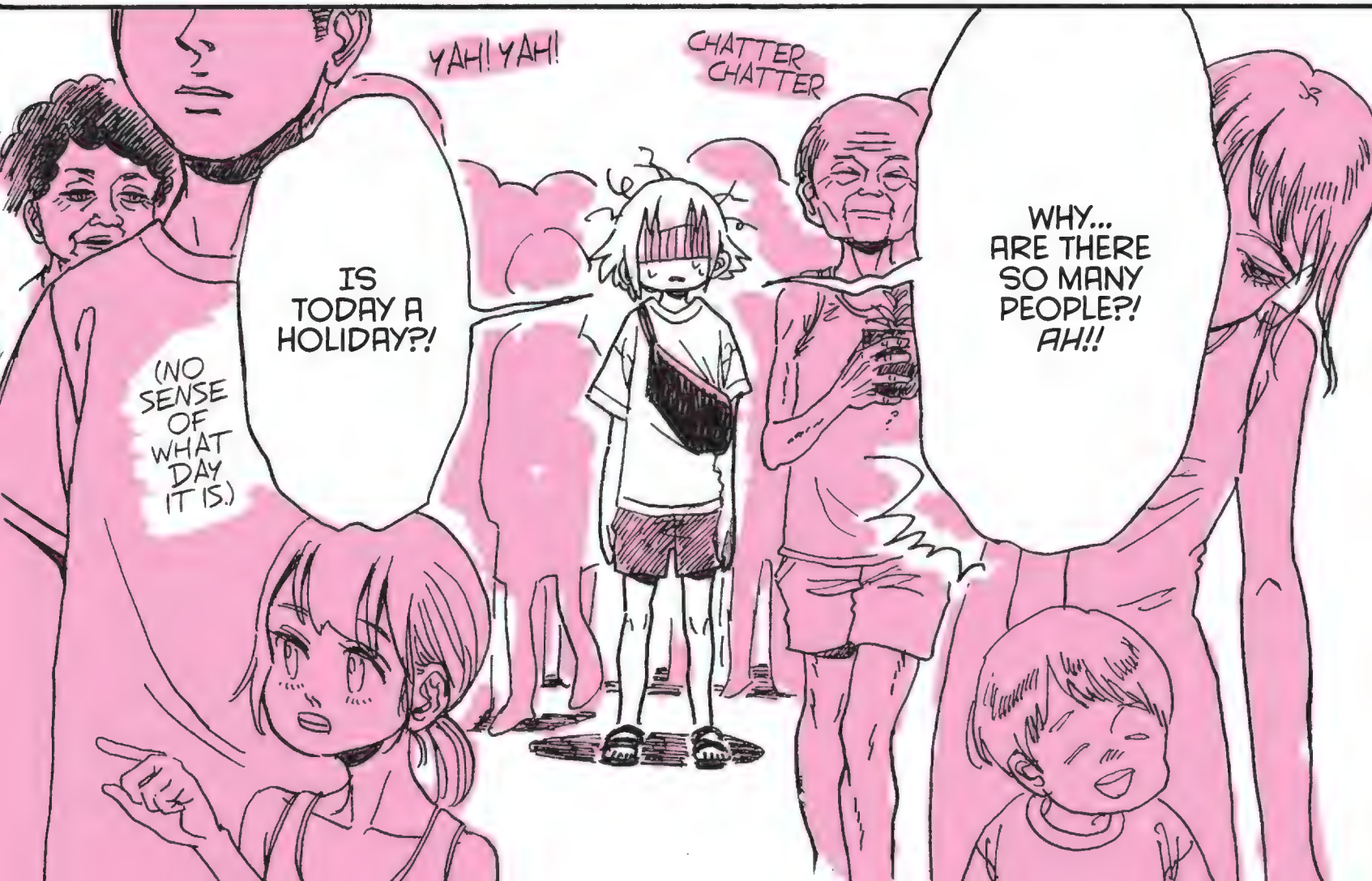
I WANT
TO DO
THAT,
TOO!!

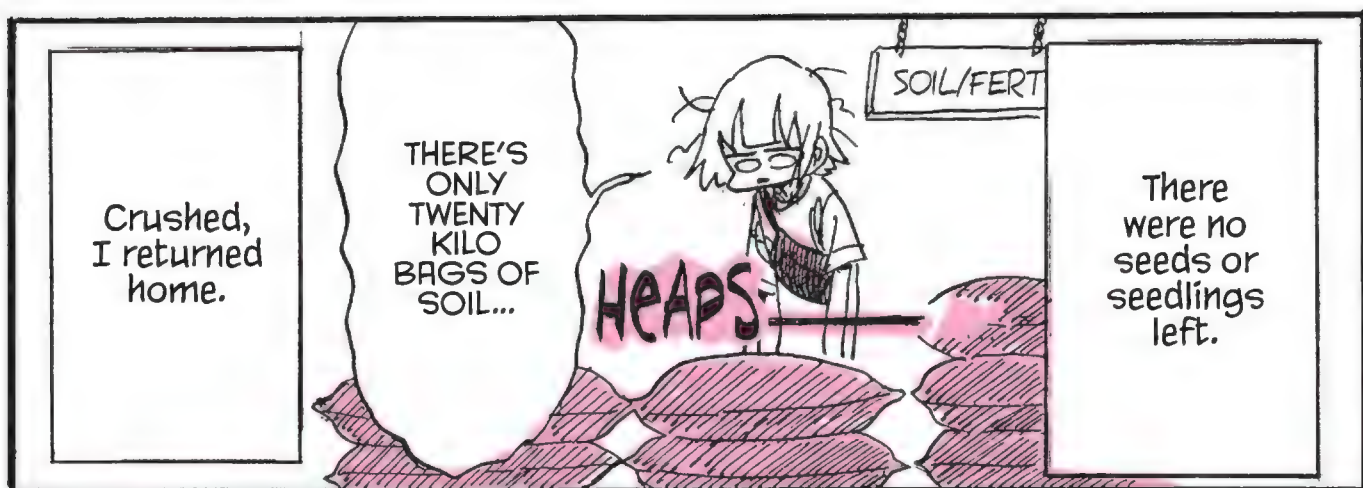
It all started
with a message
from a friend
about how she
was growing
perilla and basil
on her balcony.



FRIEND

I'M GROWING
PERILLA, BASIL,
AND CILANTRO





Crushed,
I returned
home.

THERE'S
ONLY
TWENTY
KILO
BAGS OF
SOIL...

There
were no
seeds or
seedlings
left.



So in
the end,
I purchased
a bonsai.

WAIT.
BONSAI
ARE SUPER
GREAT,
THOUGH?

I looked online
for an easy
growing kit or
something,
and bonsai just
happened to
come up.



IT ARRIVED
IN WHAT
LOOKED
LIKE A
BENTO
BOX.

HOARY FRINGE-MOSS

Then I got
interested
in moss,
so I bought
some hoary
fringe-moss.

It wilts if it gets too dry, but comes right back when you water it. Plus, the color is really vivid. And it's super cute when it opens up!

IT OPENS RIGHT UP!

BUT GIVE IT SOME WATER AND...

YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S DEAD ...



LIKE STARS! SO CUTE.



DROOP



DROOP...

Apparently, hoary fringe-moss is resilient to both heat and cold. It's used for green roofs and stuff.

SO POWERFUL!!



DUN

AN ENORMOUS FRIDGE!!

282L

↑ 160cm

NEXT UP, THIS!!



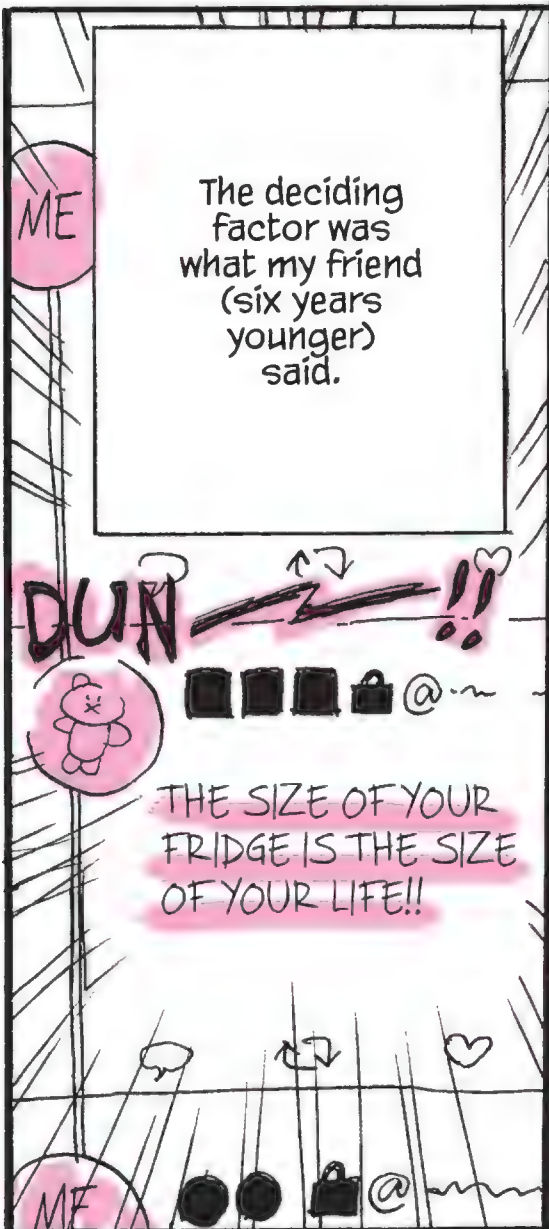


I really struggled with the decision, but buying it was the correct choice.

DID I MEASURE THAT RIGHT?

WILL IT REALLY FIT THROUGH THE DOOR?

Although it was a cheaper one, it was still expensive. It's so huge it barely fit through my door.



The deciding factor was what my friend (six years younger) said.

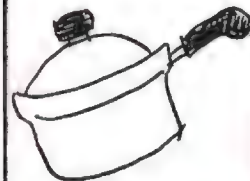
DUN

THE SIZE OF YOUR FRIDGE IS THE SIZE OF YOUR LIFE!!



I can fit things in even when I shop without a meal plan, so it's stress-free.

JUST POP IT



RIGHT IN!!

I can put a whole pot in it. And it has a vegetable drawer, which helps me with cooking at home.

NO PLAN,

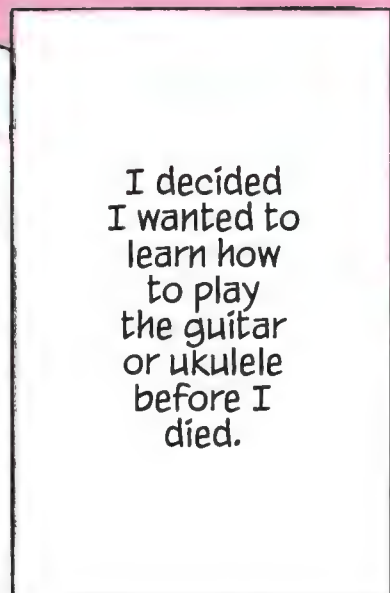
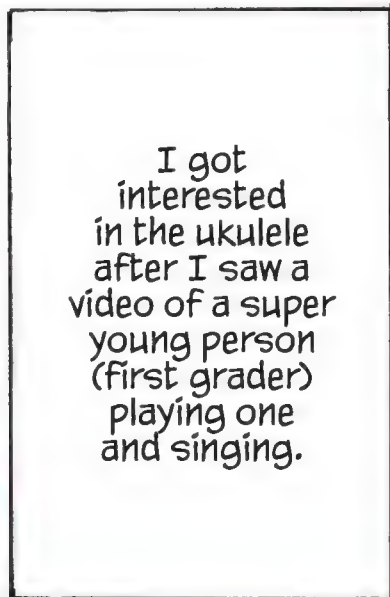


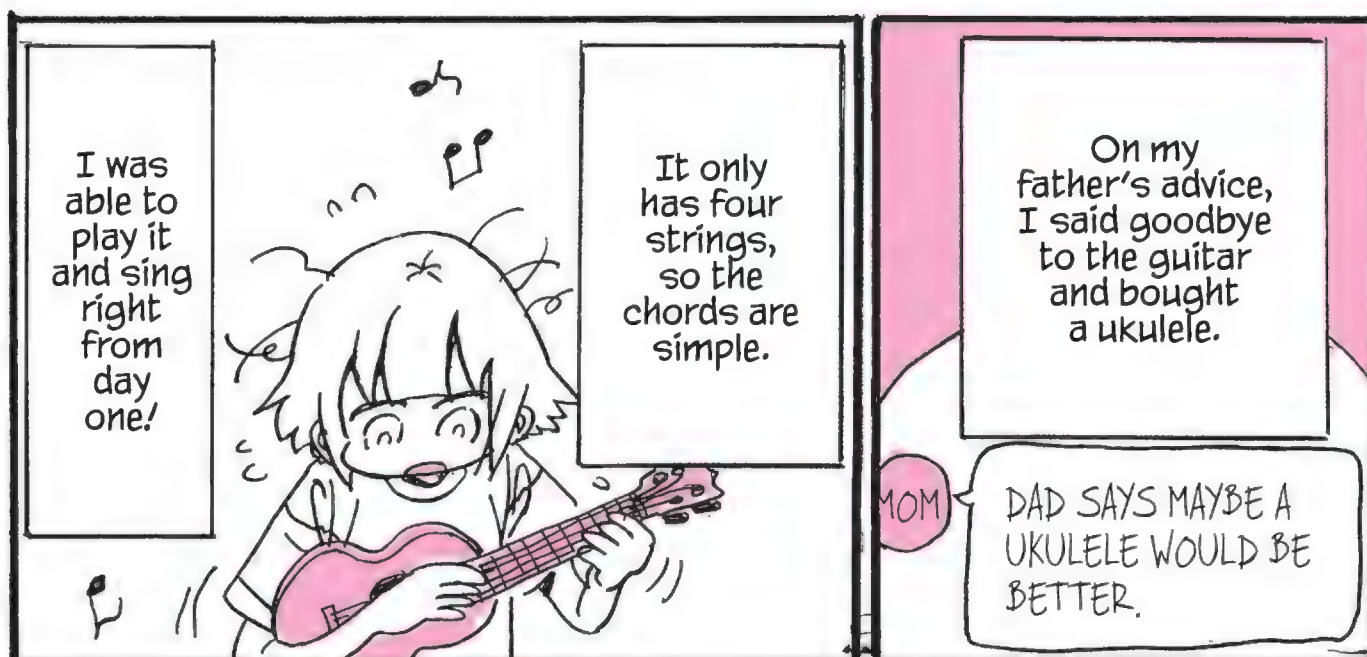
NO PROBLEM!

INTO THE VEG



DRAWER!!







(NATURALLY, IT DEPENDS ON THE WORK, BUT) WITH NO HAPPINESS OUTSIDE OF WORK, LIFE CAN FEEL MEANINGLESS.

UP TILL NOW, I THOUGHT WORK HAD TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF ALL LIFE'S HAPPINESS.

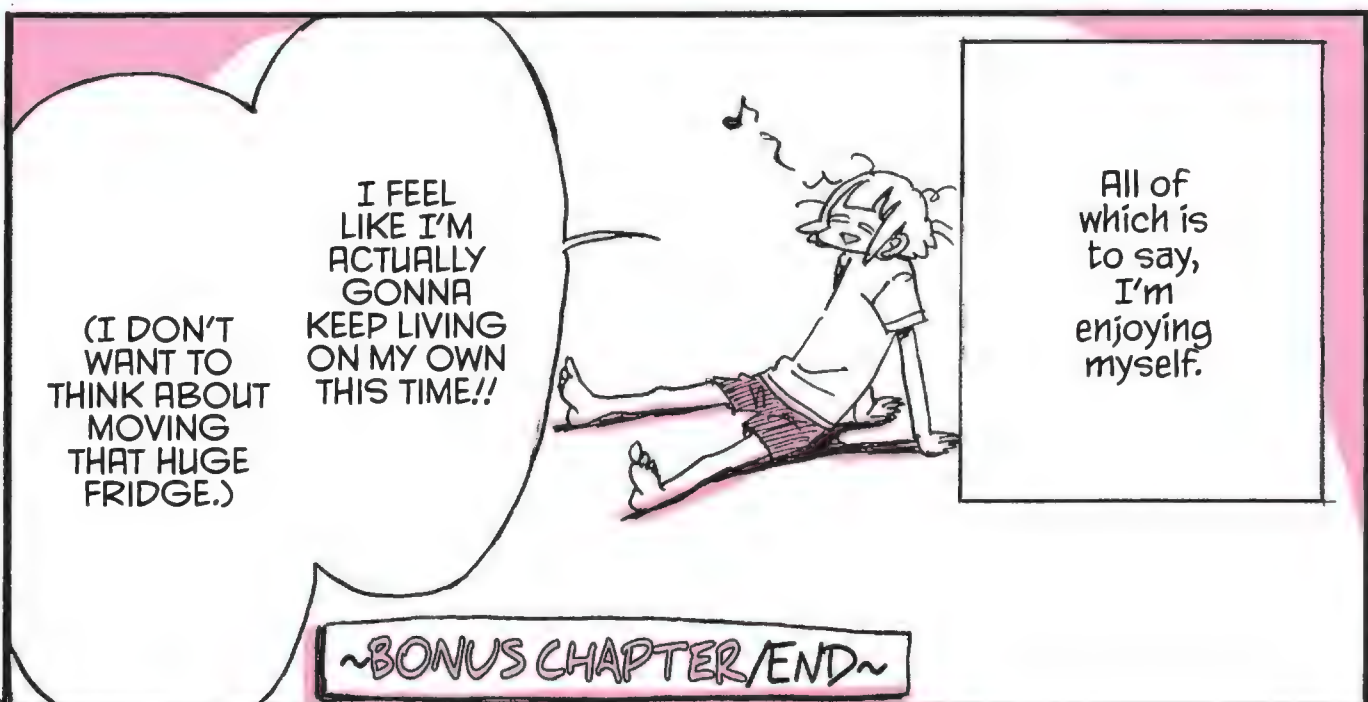
WORK-LIFE BALANCE

THANK YOU TO THE UKULELE AND THAT FIRST GRADER'S VIDEO FOR THE INSPIRATION!!



SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

It also brought about a change in my thinking about how to make life rich.



(I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT MOVING THAT HUGE FRIDGE.)

I FEEL LIKE I'M ACTUALLY GONNA KEEP LIVING ON MY OWN THIS TIME!!

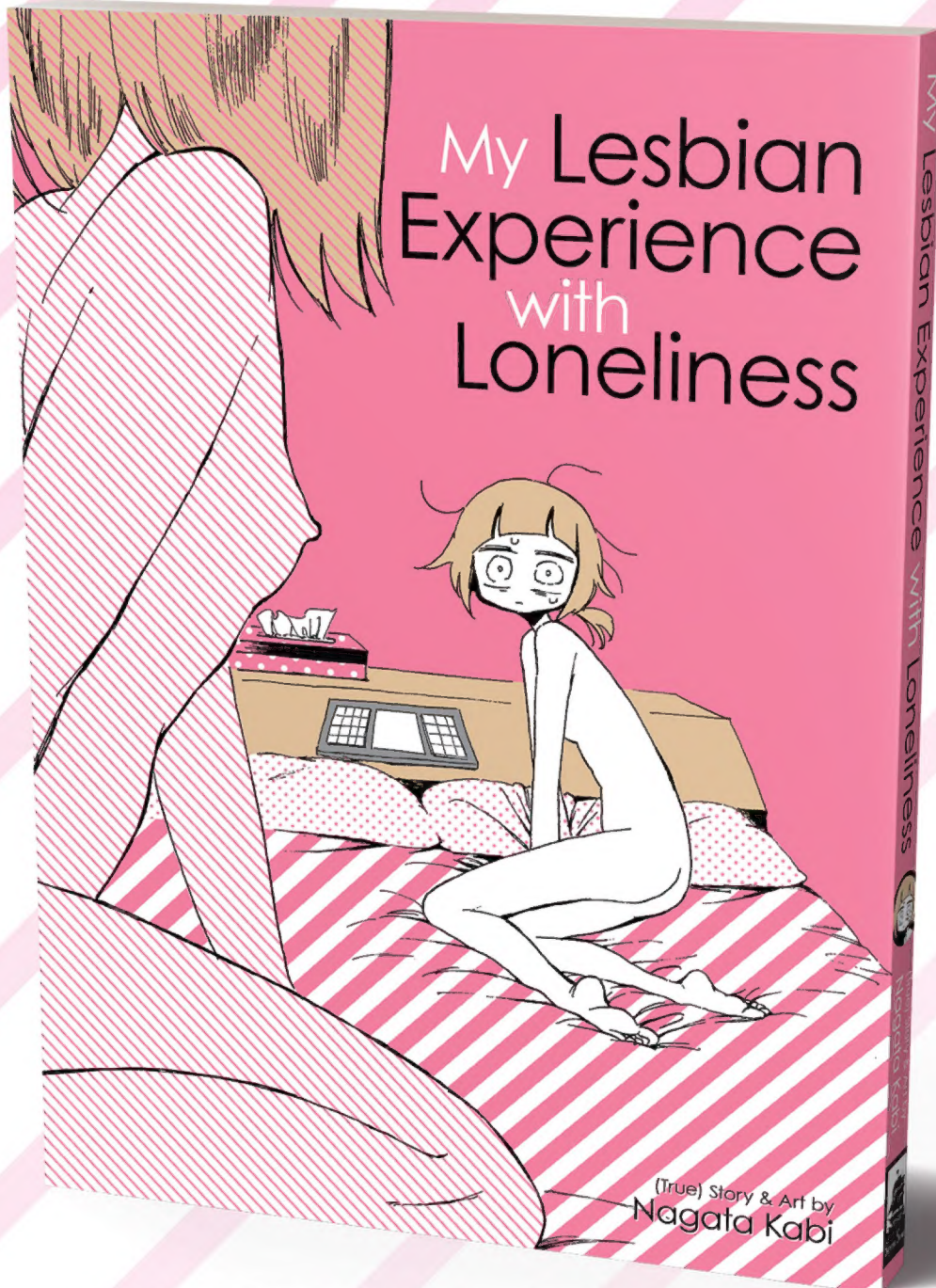
All of which is to say, I'm enjoying myself.

~BONUS CHAPTER/END~



THE WANDERING
WARRIOR
MAGATA KABI

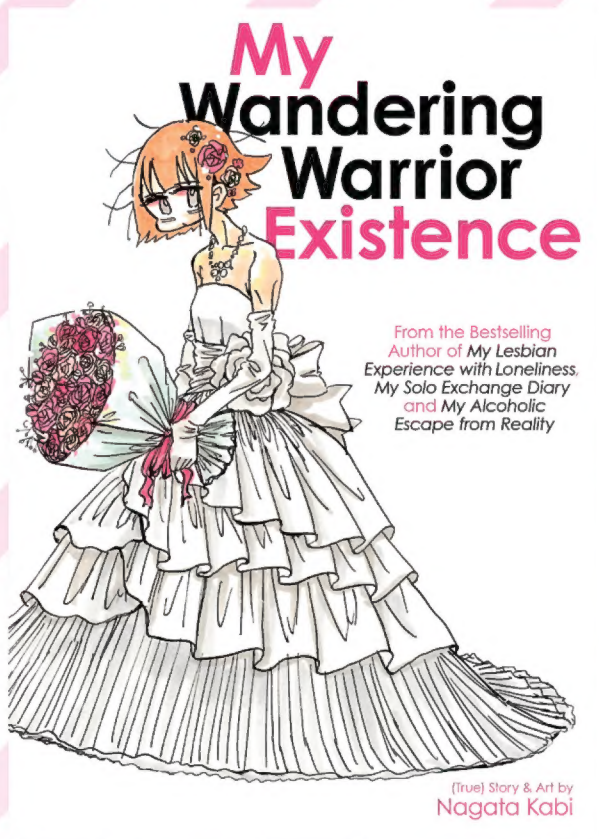
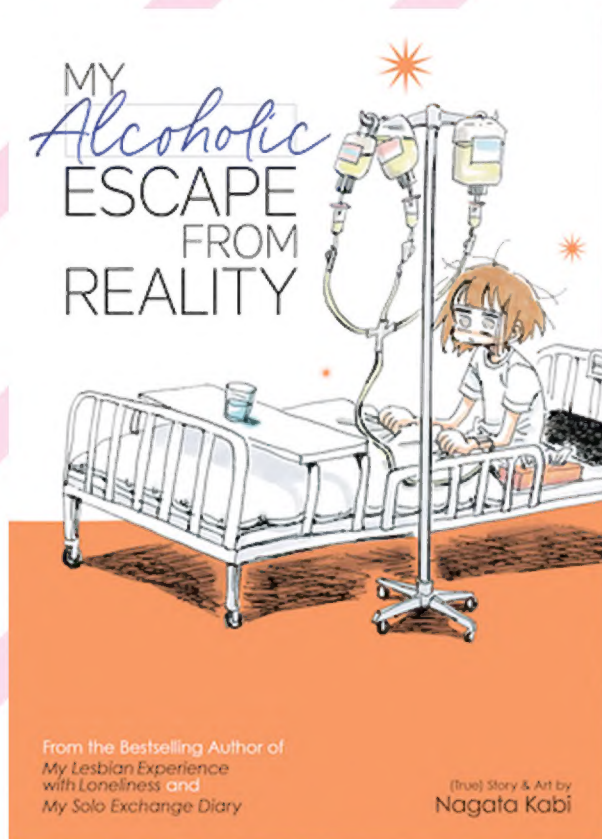
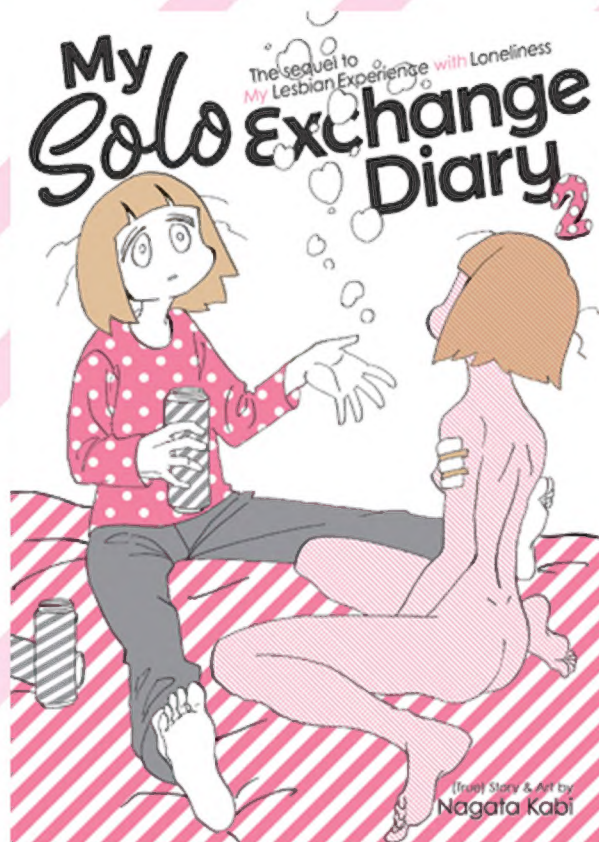
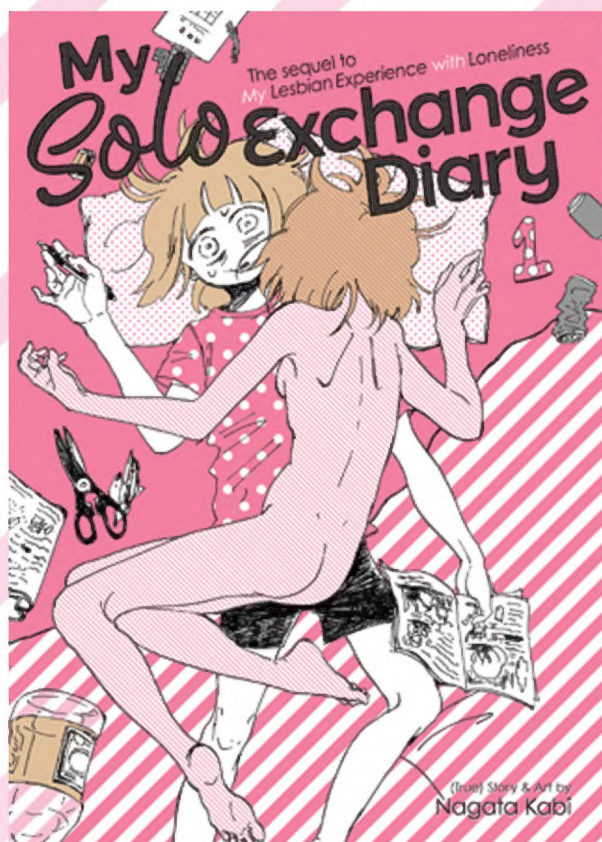
“While the subject matter is by no means light, this moving and honest slice of life will resonate with anyone who has questioned themselves or ever been conflicted in their lives. And let’s face it: that is all of us.” – Judith Utz, *Teen Vogue*



My Lesbian Experience With Loneliness
ISBN: 978-1-626926-03-5

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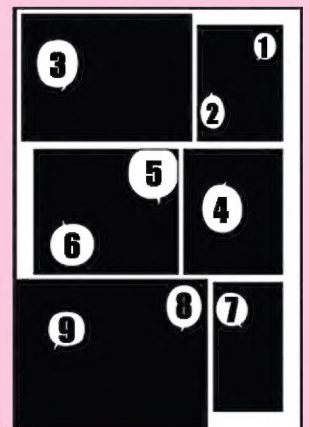
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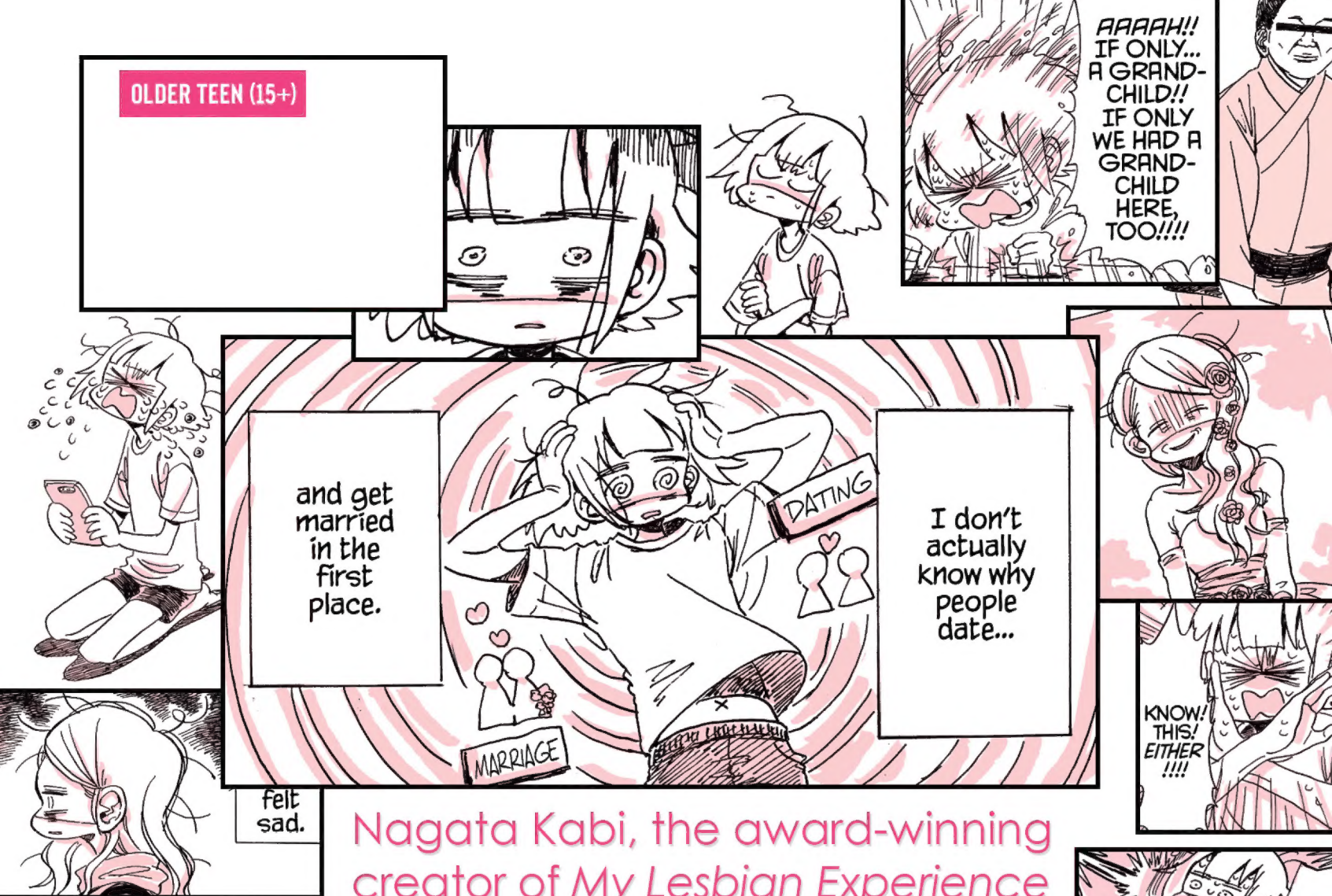
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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OLDER TEEN (15+)



Nagata Kabi, the award-winning creator of *My Lesbian Experience with Loneliness*, embarks on a search for romance in this brand-new diary manga!

After attending a friend's wedding, Nagata Kabi decides she wants one of her own. That's not the only thing she wants—she longs to love and be loved. But she has three major problems: she has no partner, no dating experience, and her only sexual encounters are limited to a lesbian escort service. With the help of a photo shoot, a dating app, and more, the author embarks on a journey to seek the love and happiness she so desperately desires.



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